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Minnesota Labor Market Review

November 1990

Nation

Stagflation Hits Economy as Both Unemployment Rate and Inflation Keep Rising

The nation's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate rose for the third consecutive month to 5.7% in September. The direction is more troublesome than the level. For most of the last decade, until March of 1988 in fact, the unemployment rate was not lower than it is now. But not since autumn of 1982, when the economy was mired in recession, has there been such a long string of increases. Furthermore, the average length of unemployment, the share of unemployment attributableto job loss and the number of involuntary part-time workers are all on the rise.

Three straight months of declining employment is directly responsible. In most industries, jobs are either decreasing or at a standstill. Manufacturing and construction shed workers again in September, continuing a trend begun this spring. Government, trade and financial services also lost jobs. The only industries of any size adding workers in the past year are transportation, health services and local government.

Meanwhile, inflation continues to go up. Consumer prices in September were 6.2% higher than a year ago. Back in May they were only 4.4% higher. The last time inflation was above the six percent threshold was over eight years ago. Now as then, energy prices were the major factor.

State

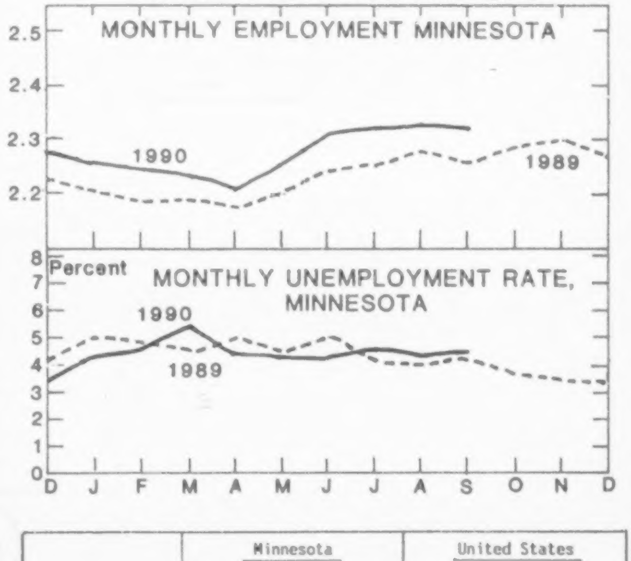
By Don Hilber

Job Growth Slows Without Big Effect on Unemployment Rate

With three months left in 1990, it appears that Minnesota's unemployment rate for the year will not be much different from 1989's. The unemployment rate rose to 4.5% in September from 4.3% in August, but the rise was typical for that time of year. Over the first nine months of 1990, the unemployment rate averaged 4.6%, identical to the same period last year.

Weakness in the U.S. economy is also evident in Minnesota, with annual job growth in both areas at 1.6%. The gain in jobs between August and September was the lowest seen between those two months in the past ten years. Large drops in construction, trade and financial services employment countered other gains and accounted for most of the slowdown. Manufacturing also lost jobs. After seasonal adjustments, only services and government added workers, the former at a slower rate than earlier this year. While nearly 33,000 jobs have been added since September of 1989, most of that growth happened last fall and winter, and all of it came in the services-producing sector.

Labor Force Estimates



	Minnesota			United States		
	Sep 90	Aug 90	Sep 89	Sep 90	Aug 90	Sep 89
Labor Force	2,428.3	2,430.4	2,359.1	124,779	126,012	123,828
Employment	2,317.8	2,324.9	2,260.6	117,961	119,174	117,498
Unemployment	110.5	105.5	98.4	6,818	6,837	6,330
Act. Unemp. Rt.	4.5	4.3	4.2	5.5	5.4	5.1
S.A. Unmemp. Rt.	-	-	-	5.7	5.6	5.3

Minnesota Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment, Hours & Earnings

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT 1/ (thousands)			PERCENT CHANGE FROM		PRODUCTION WORKERS' HOURS & EARNINGS 2/					
						Average Weekly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings	
	Sep. 1990	Aug. 1990	Sep. 1989	Aug 1990	Sep. 1989	Sep. 1990	Sep. 1989	Sep. 1990	Sep. 1989	Sep. 1990	Sep. 1989
Total Nonfarm Wage & Salary	2,152.1	2,139.5	2,119.2	0.6	1.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goods Producing	502.8	507.0	506.5	-0.8	-0.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mining	8.7	8.8	8.1	-0.9	7.7	632.45	601.97	43.2	44.1	14.64	13.65
Metal Mining	6.6	6.6	6.0	-0.2	9.7	649.40	614.11	42.5	43.4	15.28	14.15
Construction	91.1	92.7	90.8	-1.8	0.2	709.62	686.32	42.8	41.9	16.58	16.38
Manufacturing	403.0	405.5	407.6	-0.6	-1.1	464.63	455.54	41.3	41.3	11.25	11.03
Durable Goods	231.2	232.6	236.7	-0.6	-2.3	473.39	468.65	41.2	41.4	11.49	11.32
Lumber and Furniture	23.9	24.3	23.1	-1.6	3.5	506.05	491.72	38.6	38.0	13.11	12.94
Stone, Clay and Glass	9.4	9.5	9.7	-1.7	-3.5	519.16	477.40	43.7	43.4	11.88	11.00
Primary Metals	6.4	6.5	6.6	-1.4	-3.3	478.55	464.58	42.2	42.7	11.34	10.88
Fabricated Metals	34.5	34.7	35.6	-0.3	-2.9	482.98	486.57	41.6	42.2	11.61	11.53
Industrial Machinery	78.4	78.8	83.3	-0.5	-5.9	493.07	496.58	41.4	41.8	11.91	11.88
Office and Computing	34.6	34.8	38.3	-0.6	-9.7	513.75	516.18	43.1	42.0	11.92	12.29
Electronic Equipment	28.5	28.4	28.2	0.2	1.1	403.79	401.86	41.8	41.6	9.66	9.66
Transportation Equipment	11.9	12.2	11.9	-2.7	0.2	464.51	487.77	39.1	42.6	11.88	11.45
Instruments and Related	32.3	32.3	32.7	0.1	-1.2	458.82	429.53	42.8	41.5	10.72	10.35
Misc. Manufacturing	5.9	5.8	5.6	0.6	4.2	410.72	424.27	38.1	38.5	10.78	11.02
Nondurable Goods	171.8	173.0	170.9	-0.7	0.6	455.26	439.77	41.5	41.1	10.97	10.70
Food & Beverage Products	52.1	52.3	53.3	-0.5	-2.3	409.84	401.69	43.6	43.1	9.40	9.32
Textiles & Apparel	4.9	4.9	5.3	-0.9	-9.1	307.35	300.53	37.3	39.7	8.24	7.57
Paper Products	33.9	34.3	33.4	-1.3	1.4	584.16	579.48	43.4	43.9	13.46	13.20
Printing and Publishing	52.5	52.7	50.2	-0.3	4.6	448.13	432.81	38.9	37.8	11.52	11.45
Chemicals and Petroleum	11.9	12.0	11.8	-1.0	0.7	575.29	524.99	41.9	41.6	13.73	12.62
Rubber and Plastic	16.6	16.8	16.8	-0.9	-1.2	395.97	376.27	40.2	39.4	9.85	9.55
Service Producing	1,649.3	1,632.5	1,612.7	1.0	2.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transp., Comm., & Util.	110.5	108.2	107.4	2.1	2.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	75.5	73.2	71.9	3.2	5.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trucking & Warehousing	28.4	28.5	28.0	-0.2	1.6	437.37	438.55	35.3	35.0	12.39	12.53
Communication & Utilities	34.9	35.0	35.5	-0.2	-1.7	621.72	579.12	39.6	38.1	15.70	15.20
Trade	531.3	534.3	526.7	-0.6	0.9	244.73	238.95	29.7	29.5	8.24	8.10
Wholesale	130.9	132.7	128.3	-1.4	2.0	429.01	415.04	38.1	37.8	11.26	10.98
Retail	400.4	401.6	398.3	-0.3	-0.5	190.40	186.57	27.2	27.0	7.00	6.91
Building Materials	18.6	18.8	18.8	-1.1	-0.8	338.58	336.27	38.0	38.3	8.91	8.78
General Merchandise	59.0	58.9	59.2	0.1	0.5	189.69	179.32	26.2	25.4	7.24	7.06
Food Stores	55.8	55.9	53.8	-0.1	3.8	200.10	192.08	27.6	28.0	7.25	6.86
Automotive	44.4	44.5	43.2	-0.4	2.6	299.98	301.54	34.8	34.7	8.62	8.69
Apparel	20.1	20.3	20.1	-0.8	0.1	294.48	291.15	36.4	35.9	8.09	8.11
Home Furnishings	16.4	16.4	16.4	0.1	-0.2	289.01	286.84	31.9	31.8	9.06	9.02
Eating and Drinking	135.7	136.7	136.4	-0.7	-0.5	119.14	116.45	23.0	22.7	5.18	5.13
Fin., Insur., Real Estate	123.8	124.8	121.5	-0.8	1.9						
Finance	55.9	56.2	55.2	-0.4	1.4						
Insurance	46.6	47.2	45.4	-1.2	2.7						
Real Estate	21.3	21.5	21.0	-0.9	1.6						
Services	564.5	561.7	546.0	0.5	3.4						
Personal Services	25.5	24.7	24.7	3.3	3.1						
Business Services	100.7	100.4	97.6	0.3	3.1						
Repair Services	23.3	23.3	22.7	0.1	2.8						
Health Services	167.4	168.0	162.4	-0.3	3.1						
Nursing Homes	43.9	44.3	43.0	-0.7	2.1						
Hospitals	55.7	55.9	54.3	-0.5	2.5						
Legal Services	15.9	15.8	15.6	0.5	2.1						
Private Education	27.2	23.4	26.9	16.0	0.9						
Government	319.3	303.4	311.1	5.2	2.6						
Federal	34.5	35.0	34.6	-1.2	-0.1						
State	76.1	72.6	75.1	4.7	1.3						
Education	38.8	35.1	38.6	10.5	0.5						
Local	208.7	195.9	201.4	6.5	3.6						
Education	103.7	87.2	99.9	18.9	3.8						

Note: Not all industry sub-groups are shown for every major industry category.

1/ Totals may not add because of rounding.

2/ Average earnings data are on a "gross" basis and are derived from reports of payroll for full-time and part-time production or non-supervisory workers. The payroll is reported before deductions of any kind. Bonuses, retroactive pay, tips, payment in kind, and "fringe benefits" are excluded.

Minneapolis–St. Paul MSA

By Bruce Steuernagel

Unemployment Rate Rises

The Twin Cities metropolitan area unemployment rate in September was 4.4%, an increase of 0.3 of a percentage point from August. The average August to September change in the past decade was an increase of 0.2 of a percentage point. As has been the case throughout 1990, the Twin Cities labor force continues to show strong growth. In September, the local labor force was 2.2% above a year ago compared with an increase of 0.8% in the Nation. While employment, as measured by the count of employed residents, is expanding more rapidly in the Twin Cities than nationally, 1.7% compared to 0.4%, the local economy is not growing rapidly enough to absorb the growing labor force. Consequently, the number of unemployed workers in the Twin Cities has been increasing rapidly in recent months.

Payroll Employment Signals Spreading Slowdown

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the total number of nonfarm payroll jobs in Twin Cities area establishments dropped in September. Revised August estimates also showed a decrease. Seasonal adjustment is a statistical technique used to eliminate the effect of regular events, such as winter, the school calendar, or holiday shopping, on employment in order to isolate the month to month change in employment which is due to economic factors. Data in the table on the following page are not seasonally adjusted. The slowdown in job growth has spread from construction and manufacturing, which have been declining for the past seven months, to include retail trade and services. Retail trade jobs on a seasonally adjusted basis have slipped the past two months, while financial services dropped in September and other service industries have remained flat the past two months. The lack of growth in services the past two months stands in stark contrast to average monthly increases of 1,765 during 1989. Preliminary September estimates showed a strong growth in government employment, predominantly local public education.

LABOR FORCE DATA

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	Sep. 1990	Aug. 1990	Sep. 1989	Sep. 1990	Aug. 1990	Sep. 1989	Sep. 1990	Aug. 1990	Sep. 1989
Mpls-St. Paul	**1,372,931**	**1,387,775**	**1,349,527**	**63,595**	**59,309**	**55,583**	**4.4**	**4.1**	**4.0**
REGION 11	**1,288,566**	**1,302,868**	**1,266,127**	**59,852**	**55,812**	**52,540**	**4.4**	**4.1**	**4.0**
Anoka	132,523	133,994	130,215	7,023	6,415	5,830	5.0	4.6	4.3
Carver	24,693	24,967	24,263	1,048	949	971	4.1	3.7	3.8
Dakota	145,125	146,736	142,598	6,269	5,657	5,568	4.1	3.7	3.8
Hennepin	609,696	616,463	599,079	28,726	27,085	25,332	4.5	4.2	4.1
Ramsey	272,648	275,674	267,900	12,414	11,729	10,996	4.4	4.1	3.9
Scott	29,195	29,519	28,687	1,311	1,250	1,243	4.3	4.1	4.2
Washington	74,686	75,515	73,385	3,061	2,727	2,600	3.9	3.5	3.4
Chisago	14,247	14,405	13,999	828	782	659	5.5	5.1	4.5
Isanti	12,063	12,197	11,853	683	600	592	5.4	4.7	4.8
Wright	32,996	33,362	32,421	1,652	1,486	1,300	4.8	4.3	3.9
St. Croix, WI	25,059	24,943	25,127	582	632	493	2.3	2.5	1.9
Bloomington	57,159	57,793	56,164	2,692	2,406	2,445	4.5	4.0	4.2
Minneapolis	201,066	203,297	197,564	10,794	9,066	9,434	5.1	4.3	4.6
St. Paul	140,577	142,138	138,129	7,557	6,627	6,598	5.1	4.5	4.6

Mpls.-St. Paul Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment, Hours & Earnings

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT 1/ (thousands)			PERCENT CHANGE FROM		PRODUCTION WORKERS' HOURS & EARNINGS 2/					
						Average Weekly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings	
	Sep. 1990	Aug. 1990	Sep. 1989	Aug. 1990	Sep. 1989	Sep. 1990	Sep. 1989	Sep. 1990	Sep. 1989	Sep. 1990	Sep. 1989
Total Nonfarm Wage & Salary	1,384.8	1,379.5	1,365.9	0.4	1.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goods Producing	317.8	320.9	323.7	-1.0	-1.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mining	0.5	0.5	0.7	-1.9	-27.9	805.20	709.92	47.9	46.9	16.81	15.30
Construction	56.8	57.9	57.8	-1.9	-1.6	762.72	746.72	42.0	41.6	18.16	17.95
Manufacturing	260.5	262.5	265.3	-0.8	-1.8	491.56	479.64	41.1	41.1	11.96	11.67
Durable Goods	156.2	156.9	162.3	-0.5	-3.8	498.13	484.92	41.1	41.2	12.12	11.77
Lumber and Furniture	10.1	10.3	9.5	-2.2	6.1	574.16	554.20	38.9	38.3	14.76	14.47
Stone, Clay and Glass	3.3	3.4	3.3	-3.1	0.9	543.65	498.19	41.5	41.9	13.10	11.89
Primary Metals	4.6	4.6	4.6	-0.7	-1.9	471.22	445.30	42.3	42.9	11.14	10.38
Fabricated Metals	25.7	25.7	27.0	0.1	-4.7	494.43	490.12	41.1	41.5	12.03	11.81
Industrial Machinery	55.5	55.8	60.7	-0.4	-8.6	528.96	534.96	41.1	42.9	12.87	12.47
Office and Computing	22.9	23.0	27.1	-0.7	-15.7	609.33	602.94	42.7	45.3	14.27	13.31
Electronic Equipment	18.1	18.0	18.0	0.5	0.5	403.81	371.91	40.3	38.7	10.02	9.61
Transportation Equipment	5.6	5.8	5.8	-3.3	-2.1	587.04	577.58	38.8	37.8	15.13	15.28
Instruments and Related	29.4	29.4	29.7	0.1	-1.0	475.87	448.51	43.3	41.8	10.99	10.73
Misc. Manufacturing	3.9	4.0	3.7	-1.8	5.8	466.05	458.57	39.0	38.6	11.95	11.88
Nondurable Goods	104.3	105.5	103.0	-1.2	1.2	482.51	472.73	41.1	41.0	11.74	11.53
Food & Beverage Products	17.4	17.8	17.8	-2.4	-2.2	515.28	518.02	45.2	45.6	11.40	11.36
Paper Products	25.9	26.2	25.6	-1.3	1.0	506.27	504.11	41.6	41.8	12.17	12.06
Printing and Publishing	37.4	37.6	35.6	-0.5	5.2	460.59	455.07	39.4	38.5	11.69	11.82
Chemicals and Petroleum	10.3	10.4	9.9	-1.2	3.8	628.97	579.44	42.7	41.3	14.73	14.03
Rubber and Plastic	11.3	11.3	11.4	-0.5	-1.2	399.50	386.89	38.9	39.6	10.27	9.77
Service Producing	1,067.0	1,058.7	1,042.2	0.8	2.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transp., Comm., & Util.	79.2	77.3	75.6	2.4	4.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	57.3	55.4	53.3	3.5	7.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trucking & Warehousing	18.1	18.2	17.6	-0.4	2.9	430.99	402.21	32.9	31.3	13.10	12.85
Communication & Utilities	21.9	22.0	22.3	-0.3	-1.6	606.34	563.22	38.4	37.8	15.79	14.90
Trade	339.3	340.5	336.0	-0.3	1.0	277.22	268.50	30.1	29.9	9.21	8.98
Wholesale	89.3	90.1	87.0	-0.8	2.6	476.45	452.78	38.3	37.7	12.44	12.01
Retail	250.0	250.4	249.0	-0.2	0.4	214.50	209.34	27.5	27.4	7.80	7.64
Building Materials	10.4	10.6	10.9	-1.9	-4.6	422.45	390.63	38.9	38.6	10.86	10.12
General Merchandise	42.1	41.9	42.3	0.5	-0.6	204.62	194.82	26.1	25.6	7.84	7.61
Food Stores	29.8	29.9	28.9	-0.1	3.2	260.55	256.58	28.6	29.8	9.11	8.61
Automotive	25.6	25.8	25.4	-0.6	0.8	353.13	327.71	36.9	34.9	9.57	9.39
Apparel	13.8	13.8	25.4	-0.6	2.8	359.81	334.14	38.4	36.8	9.37	9.08
Home Furnishings	11.8	11.8	11.7	0.1	1.2	349.54	307.27	33.1	31.1	10.56	9.88
Eating and Drinking	84.9	85.3	85.4	-0.5	-0.6	127.91	131.65	22.8	23.3	5.61	5.65
Fin., Insur., Real Estate	95.0	95.9	93.6	-0.9	1.5						
Finance	40.3	40.5	39.8	-0.4	1.3						
Insurance	37.7	38.3	37.1	-1.5	1.7						
Real Estate	17.0	17.2	16.8	-0.8	1.4						
Services	377.2	374.9	365.5	0.6	3.2						
Personal Services	18.3	17.7	17.7	3.1	3.3						
Business Services	85.0	84.6	83.4	0.5	1.9						
Repair Services	17.6	17.5	17.2	0.1	2.2						
Health Services	95.0	95.1	91.0	-0.1	4.3						
Nursing Homes	23.1	23.3	22.4	-0.5	3.4						
Hospitals	33.1	33.2	31.9	-0.2	3.7						
Legal Services	12.8	12.7	12.5	0.7	2.5						
Private Education	14.6	12.3	15.0	18.7	-2.7						
Government	176.3	170.2	171.4	3.6	2.9						
Federal	20.8	21.0	20.7	-1.1	0.2						
State	49.5	48.8	49.0	1.5	1.1						
Education	25.7	24.9	25.6	3.1	0.3						
Local	106.0	100.4	101.7	5.6	4.3						
Education	54.1	47.3	51.8	14.4	4.5						

Note: Not all industry sub-groups are shown for every major industry category.

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Central and Northwest Minnesota

LABOR FORCE DATA

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	Sep. 1990	Aug. 1990	Sep. 1989	Sep. 1990	Aug. 1990	Sep. 1989	Sep. 1990	Aug. 1990	Sep. 1989
St. Cloud	99,241	97,627	92,616	5,122	4,964	3,867	4.9	4.8	4.0
REGION 1	41,742	40,334	40,327	2,509	2,785	2,343	5.7	6.5	5.5
Kittson	2,381	2,270	2,335	157	265	139	6.2	10.5	5.6
Marshall	4,501	4,287	4,455	401	459	421	8.2	9.7	8.6
Norman	3,328	3,230	3,415	167	184	177	4.8	5.4	4.9
Pennington	6,888	6,823	6,480	381	359	895	5.2	5.0	4.6
Polk	14,185	13,304	13,783	981	1,033	183	6.5	7.2	6.1
Red Lake	1,426	1,358	1,408	217	204	895	13.2	13.1	11.5
Roseau	9,033	9,062	8,451	205	281	217	2.2	3.0	2.5
REGION 2	31,569	30,086	29,813	1,778	1,953	1,765	5.3	6.1	5.6
Beltrami	16,494	15,506	15,645	841	881	816	4.9	5.4	5.0
Clearwater	3,264	3,040	3,186	317	343	329	8.9	10.1	9.4
Hubbard	7,595	7,580	6,877	423	486	414	5.3	6.0	5.7
Lake of Woods	1,945	1,978	1,881	46	59	63	2.3	2.9	3.2
Mahnomen	2,271	1,982	2,224	151	184	143	6.2	8.5	6.0
REGION 4	96,747	96,755	94,184	4,023	4,022	3,980	4.0	4.0	4.1
Becker	13,495	13,617	13,216	739	745	720	5.2	5.2	5.2
Clay	25,249	25,040	24,256	797	885	814	3.1	3.4	3.2
Douglas	14,959	15,259	15,006	664	554	593	4.3	3.5	3.8
Grant	2,838	2,791	2,675	132	136	116	4.4	4.6	4.2
Otter Tail	25,166	25,297	24,146	1,120	1,158	1,168	4.3	4.4	4.6
Pope	4,727	4,590	4,558	231	240	213	4.7	5.0	4.5
Stevens	4,931	4,808	5,087	122	86	146	2.4	1.8	2.8
Traverse	1,972	1,986	1,966	90	73	67	4.4	3.5	3.3
Wilkin	3,410	3,367	3,274	128	145	143	3.6	4.1	4.2
REGION 5	60,043	60,133	59,784	3,930	3,768	3,606	6.1	5.9	5.7
Cass	8,820	9.087	8,430	700	753	647	7.4	7.7	7.1
Crow Wing	22,265	22,363	22.597	1,138	1,058	1,143	4.9	4.5	4.8
Morrison	14,217	14,130	13,984	1,030	915	823	6.8	6.1	5.6
Todd	10,291	10,179	10,020	713	702	637	6.5	6.5	6.0
Wadena	4,450	4,374	4,753	349	340	356	7.3	7.2	7.0
REGION 6E	54,698	54,977	53,013	2,443	2,434	2,486	4.3	4.2	4.5
Kandiyohi	20,294	19,990	19,308	729	686	696	3.5	3.3	3.5
McLeod	17,153	17,440	17,052	719	747	747	4.0	4.1	4.2
Meeker	8,315	8,153	8,084	582	526	562	6.5	6.1	6.5
Renville	8,936	9,394	8,569	413	475	481	4.4	4.8	5.3
REGION 7E	51,613	51,457	50,719	3,240	3,025	2,806	5.9	5.6	5.2
Chisago	14,247	14,405	13,999	828	782	659	5.5	5.1	4.5
Isanti	12,063	12,197	11,853	683	600	592	5.4	4.7	4.8
Kanabec	5,279	5,284	5,694	518	467	456	8.9	8.1	7.4
Mille Lacs	9,691	9,590	9,482	478	472	477	4.7	4.7	4.8
Pine	10,333	9,981	9,691	733	704	622	6.6	6.6	6.0
REGION 7W	132,237	130,989	125,037	6,775	6,450	5,167	4.9	4.7	4.0
Benton	15,651	15,397	14,606	961	967	585	5.8	5.9	3.9
Sherburne	19,235	18,922	17,951	1,286	985	920	6.3	4.9	4.9
Stearns	64,355	63,308	60,059	2,876	3,012	2,362	4.3	4.5	3.8
Wright	32,996	33,362	32,421	1,652	1,486	1,300	4.8	4.3	3.9

ST. CLOUD MSA NONFARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT

Industry	Employment			% Change From	
	Sep. 1990	Aug. 1990	Sep. 1989	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage & Salary	81,727	79,319	78,481	3.0	4.1
Goods Producing	19,822	20,044	19,113	-1.1	3.7
Construction & Mining	4,670	4,805	4,612	-2.8	1.3
Manufacturing	15,152	15,239	14,501	-0.6	4.5
Durable Goods	8,921	8,875	8,344	0.5	6.9
Nondurable Goods	6,231	6,364	6,157	-2.1	1.2
Service Producing	61,905	59,275	59,368	4.4	4.3
Transp, Comm., & Util.	3,843	3,865	3,934	-0.6	-2.3
Trade	26,167	26,249	24,124	-0.3	8.5
Wholesale	4,056	4,183	3,645	-3.0	11.3
Retail	22,111	22,066	20,479	0.2	8.0
Finan., Insur., & Real Estate	2,415	2,444	2,410	-1.2	0.2
Services	17,293	16,745	16,264	3.3	6.3
Health	5,736	5,757	5,336	-0.4	7.5
Other Services	11,557	10,988	10,928	5.2	5.8
Government	12,187	9,972	12,636	22.2	-3.6

By Ron Daws

Unemployment Rates Generally Remain The Same As Last Month's

Labor forces grew in most areas of Central and Northwest Minnesota over the month as a result of both rising unemployment and employment. Consequently, September's unemployment rates remained similar to August's. Compared with September 1989, unemployment rates were higher in some regions and lower in others. If the economy is slowing, very little of it is showing up in the labor force data.

The St. Cloud MSA's unemployment rate was probably higher than last September's, even allowing for sampling errors in the estimating process. Nearly unchanged from August's 4.8%, September's 4.9% made it the third consecutive month that the rate has exceeded last year's by about one percentage point.

Employment in the St. Cloud MSA reached an all-time high in September (99,241), 1,614 more jobs than in August, and a whopping 6,625 more than during September 1989, or up 7.2%.

Consistent with the gain in total employment, the MSA's nonfarm payroll jobs rose 3,246 over the year despite a loss of 449 government jobs. Several industries created prodigious numbers of jobs or at least gained them rapidly. Retail trade added 1,632 jobs, an 8.0% rise. Services added 1,029, of which 629 were nonmedical jobs and 400 were health services jobs. Durable goods producing jobs rose 577 over the year.

Since August, a 2,300 gain in mostly educational jobs offset losses in other of the MSA's industries. Nondurable goods producers lost 200 jobs, and construction, wholesale trade, transportation/utilities and health services each lost 100 jobs over the month.

Northeast Minnesota

September's Unemployment Rates Are Generally Lower Than Last Year's

Although Region 3's September unemployment rate rose to 5.8% from 5.5% in August, it was lower than September 1989's 6.3%. The region's job level, although dropping from 141,237 in August to 139,547 in September, was still well above last September's 133,742. There were also slightly fewer employed in Duluth over the month, but there were more than the year before.

In Duluth, however, the unemployment rate rose over the month and year. Even so, 5.8% in September was not threateningly far above August's 4.8% and last September's 5.1%. Duluth's unemployment rate normally drops in September when students leave the job market. Still, it does not seem that Duluth's unemployment rates are on serious a upward march.

Duluth's nonfarm payroll jobs increased slightly over the month (from 50,180 to 50,362), and by 2.5% over the year (from 49,141 last September). The big job-creators over the year were health services--up 472, nonhealth services--up 314, and government--up 315. Construction & mining, nondurable goods producers, and retail trade, on the other hand, dropped slightly.

Since August, Duluth gained 182 nonfarm payroll jobs. Of them, 412 were in government as schools opened. Among the job losers were construction & mining, retail trade and nonmedical services. None of the losses revealed any real slowing of the economy. Duluth's overall job level was, except for July and August, the highest since the end of 1981 when the recession began to squeeze the life out of that city's economy.

By Ron Dawe

LABOR FORCE DATA

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	Sep. 1990	Aug. 1990	Sep. 1989	Sep. 1990	Aug. 1990	Sep. 1989	Sep. 1990	Aug. 1990	Sep. 1989
REGION 3	**139,547**	**141,237**	**133,742**	**8,668**	**8,149**	**8,948**	**5.8**	**5.5**	**6.3**
Aitkin	5,232	5,171	4,936	363	399	416	6.5	7.2	7.8
Carlton	12,175	11,885	11,559	775	758	792	6.0	6.0	6.4
Cook	3,073	3,190	2,870	106	116	90	3.3	3.5	3.0
Itasca	16,469	16,105	16,176	1,395	1,417	1,588	7.8	8.1	8.9
Koochiching	10,195	10,788	8,126	680	499	412	6.3	4.4	4.8
Lake	4,856	4,988	3,785	305	259	340	5.9	4.9	8.2
St. Louis	87,547	89,110	86,290	5,044	4,701	5,310	5.4	5.0	5.8
City of Duluth	38,008	38,686	37,462	2,122	1,932	2,015	5.3	4.8	5.1
Balance St. Louis	49,539	50,424	48,828	2,922	2,769	3,295	5.6	5.2	6.3

DULUTH & DULUTH-SUPERIOR MSA NONFARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT

Industry	DULUTH					DULUTH SUPERIOR				
	Employment			Percent Change		Employment			Percent Change	
	Sep. 1990	Aug. 1990	Sep. 1989	Month Ago	Year Ago	Sep. 1990	Aug. 1990	Sep. 1989	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage & Salary	50,362	50,180	49,141	0.4	2.5	96,569	96,941	96,816	-0.4	-1.3
Goods Producing	6,108	6,165	6,074	-0.9	0.6	17,776	18,170	18,117	-2.2	-1.9
Mining	Small, combined with construction					5,562	5,655	5,420	-1.6	2.6
Construction	1,817	1,877	1,881	-3.2	-3.4	3,600	3,766	4,163	-4.4	-13.5
Manufacturing	4,291	4,288	4,193	0.1	2.3	8,614	8,749	8,534	-1.5	0.9
Durable Goods	1,844	1,828	1,700	0.9	8.5	4,627	4,679	4,540	-1.1	1.9
Nondurable Goods	2,447	2,460	2,493	-0.5	-1.8	3,987	4,070	3,994	-2.0	-0.2
Service Producing	44,254	44,015	43,067	0.5	2.8	78,793	78,771	78,699	0.0	0.1
Transp., Comm., & Util.	3,343	3,362	3,228	-0.6	3.6	5,971	6,028	5,944	-0.9	0.5
Trade	12,186	12,256	12,209	-0.6	-0.2	24,338	24,725	24,720	-1.6	-1.5
Wholesale	1,842	1,865	1,820	-1.2	1.2	3,900	3,920	4,009	-0.5	-2.7
Retail	10,344	10,391	10,389	-0.5	-0.4	20,438	20,805	20,711	-1.8	-1.3
Finan., Insur., & Real Estate	1,910	1,925	1,916	-0.8	-0.3	3,226	3,280	3,250	-1.6	-0.7
Service	14,783	14,852	13,997	-0.5	5.6	24,249	24,403	23,654	-0.6	2.5
Health	6,049	5,989	5,577	1.0	8.5	9,675	9,619	9,232	0.6	4.8
Other Services	8,734	8,863	8,420	-1.5	3.7	14,574	14,784	14,422	-1.4	1.1
Government	12,032	11,620	11,717	3.5	2.7	21,009	20,335	21,131	3.3	-0.6

Southern Minnesota

LABOR FORCE DATA

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	Sep. 1990	Aug. 1990	Sep. 1989	Sep. 1990	Aug. 1990	Sep. 1989	Sep. 1990	Aug. 1990	Sep. 1989
REGION 6W	23,860	23,460	23,129	806	899	798	3.3	3.7	3.3
Big Stone	2,864	2,817	2,856	80	95	107	2.7	3.3	3.6
Chippewa	6,957	6,703	6,081	247	257	212	3.4	3.7	3.4
Lac Qui Parle	3,874	3,856	3,805	145	184	121	3.6	4.6	3.1
Swift	4,553	4,539	4,714	181	181	183	3.8	3.8	3.7
Yellow Medicine	5,612	5,545	5,673	153	182	175	2.7	3.2	3.0
REGION 8	60,530	59,453	58,778	2,645	2,706	2,434	4.2	4.4	4.0
Cottonwood	5,907	5,728	5,850	652	756	284	9.9	11.7	4.6
Jackson	5,404	5,297	5,280	273	266	215	4.8	4.8	3.9
Lincoln	3,143	3,057	3,092	102	109	130	3.1	3.4	4.0
Lyon	12,543	12,322	11,560	387	379	436	3.0	3.0	3.6
Murray	4,700	4,731	4,692	195	202	235	4.0	4.1	4.8
Nobles	12,108	11,970	11,052	379	347	313	3.0	2.8	2.8
Pipestone	4,857	4,715	5,268	297	259	351	5.8	5.2	6.2
Redwood	7,318	7,178	7,488	217	245	275	2.9	3.3	3.5
Rock	4,550	4,455	4,496	143	143	195	3.0	3.1	4.2
REGION 9	112,578	111,856	107,550	4,027	3,885	3,576	3.5	3.4	3.2
Blue Earth	27,749	27,470	27,289	863	804	721	3.0	2.8	2.6
Brown	14,049	14,145	13,495	383	492	506	2.7	3.4	3.6
Faribault	8,343	8,305	7,227	303	297	282	3.5	3.5	3.8
LeSueur	12,016	11,834	10,890	628	567	541	5.0	4.6	4.7
Martin	11,317	11,494	11,176	456	420	333	3.9	3.5	2.9
Nicollet	15,148	14,996	14,897	561	503	419	3.6	3.2	2.7
Sibley	7,727	7,492	7,082	279	268	277	3.5	3.5	3.8
Waseca	10,269	10,141	9,678	377	325	318	3.5	3.1	3.2
Watonwan	5,960	5,979	5,816	177	209	179	2.9	3.4	3.0
REGION 10	224,103	221,269	218,447	9,773	9,629	7,983	4.2	4.2	3.5
Dodge	8,440	8,233	8,561	401	354	378	4.5	4.1	4.2
Fillmore	9,458	9,108	9,387	335	404	452	3.4	4.2	4.6
Freeborn	14,922	14,433	16,272	1,716	1,866	801	10.3	11.4	4.7
Goodhue	21,632	21,496	20,242	953	788	756	4.2	3.5	3.6
Houston	9,852	9,651	9,248	273	252	335	2.7	2.5	3.5
Mower	17,971	17,564	16,251	733	701	488	3.9	3.8	2.9
Olmsted	62,834	63,330	61,505	2,162	2,072	1,872	3.3	3.2	3.0
Rice	28,011	27,741	26,477	1,020	980	987	3.5	3.4	3.6
Steele	16,640	16,459	15,927	723	611	548	4.2	3.6	3.3
Wabasha	8,544	8,695	8,697	383	357	416	4.3	3.9	4.6
Winona	25,799	24,559	25,880	1,074	1,244	950	4.0	4.8	3.5
Rochester City	39,092	39,401	38,265	1,582	1,525	1,325	3.9	3.7	3.3

ROCHESTER MSA NONFARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT

Industry	Employment			% Change From	
	Sep. 1990	Aug. 1990	Sep. 1989	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage & Salary	65,724	65,188	65,121	0.8	0.9
Goods Producing	14,702	14,446	14,697	1.8	0.0
Construction & Mining	2,442	2,298	2,638	6.3	-7.4
Manufacturing	12,260	12,148	12,059	0.9	1.7
Durable Goods	10,082	9,953	9,934	1.3	1.5
Nondurable Goods	2,178	2,195	2,125	-0.8	2.5
Service Producing	51,022	50,742	50,424	0.6	1.2
Transp, Comm., & Util.	1,884	1,884	1,960	0.0	-3.9
Trade	12,778	12,933	12,793	-1.2	-0.1
Wholesale	1,414	1,399	1,340	1.1	5.5
Retail	11,364	11,534	11,453	-1.5	-0.8
Finan., Insur., & Real Estate	1,691	1,693	1,606	-0.1	5.3
Services	28,559	28,776	27,785	-0.8	2.8
Health	18,879	19,111	18,534	-1.2	1.9
Other Services	9,680	9,665	9,251	0.2	4.6
Government	6,110	5,456	6,280	12.0	-2.7

Both Employment and Unemployment Rates Are Rising In Southern Minnesota

Although generally rising slightly over the year, unemployment rates in most regions remain near August's rates. The tendency in September, is however, for unemployment rates to drop when students remove themselves from the job market.

The Rochester MSA's unemployment rate, at 3.3%, has remained essentially unchanged for the last three months. A year ago September it was 3.0%, but there were more jobs this September.

Although the Rochester MSA's job level dropped somewhat since August, it remained above September's level and has been above year-ago levels during all of 1990.

Nonfarm payroll job estimates for the MSA say that the were nearly one percent more jobs than there were a month and year ago. Over the year, construction & mining lost 7.4% (196) of its jobs, government lost 2.7% (170), and transportation/communications/utilities lost 3.9% (76).

These losses were more than compensated for by the job creating industries: mainly health services--up 1.9% or 345 jobs, nonmedical services--up 4.6% or 429 jobs, and finance/insurance/real estate--up 5.3% or 85 jobs. All in all, there were 603 more nonfarm payroll jobs in the Rochester MSA this September than last September.

Over the month, the gain of 536 nonfarm jobs was basically the result of construction & mining--up 6.3% or 144 jobs, durable goods manufacturing--up 1.5% or 129 jobs, and government--up 12% or 654 jobs. Government's rise, of course, reflected the beginning of the school year. Several of the MSA's industries have lost small numbers of jobs since August, but nothing that would suggest a softening of the job market.

By Ron Daws

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Selected Minnesota Program Statistics

SELECTED MINNESOTA PROGRAM STATISTICS

Distribution of Insured Unemployed by Industry and Occupation, September 1990

Industry Attachment	Number	Percent of Total	Percent*/ Long-Term Unemployed	Women as Percent of total
TOTAL, ALL INDUSTRIES	24,544	100.0	32.3	40.0
Ag., For., Fish.	197	0.8	20.6	31.1
Mining	85	0.3	37.7	29.9
Construction	2,610	10.6	20.8	8.0
Manufacturing	7,166	29.2	34.2	34.8
Public Utilities	1,116	4.5	34.7	32.0
Wholesale Trade	2,042	8.3	35.0	33.6
Retail Trade	3,364	13.7	36.5	46.3
Fin., Ins., Re. Est.	1,292	5.3	40.3	61.0
Services	5,139	20.9	29.9	58.0
Public Admin.	598	2.4	27.5	48.2
Info. Not Available	935	3.8	31.2	39.7

Distribution of Insured Unemployed by Age and Sex, September 1990

Age Groups	Number	Percent Distribution		
		Men of Totals	Men of Men	Women of Women
TOTALS	24,544	60.2	100.0	100.0
Under 45	17,809	60.7	73.2	71.6
Under 25	2,468	60.0	10.0	10.1
25-34	8,468	62.0	35.5	32.9
35-44	6,873	59.4	27.6	28.6
45 and over	6,735	58.8	26.8	28.4
45-54	4,240	58.6	16.8	18.0
55 and over	4,295	59.1	10.0	10.4

Experienced Supply/Job Openings Demand**/

Occupational Attachment	Number	Percent of Total	Percent*/ Long-Term Unemployed	Women as Percent of total	Applicants (Supply) Sep. 1990	Job Openings (Demand) Sep. 1990	Supply/Demand Ratio	
							Sep. 1990	Sep. 1989
TOTAL, ALL OCCUPATIONS	24,544	100.0	32.3	40.0	57,157	26,254	2.2	2.4
Prof., Tech., Mgr.	6,369	25.9	36.0	41.4	16,994	2,263	7.5	5.7
Clerical	3,866	15.8	34.2	81.2	10,449	4,093	2.6	3.1
Sales	1,542	6.3	35.8	35.2	3,613	3,015	1.2	1.4
Services	1,608	6.6	31.5	57.5	5,363	6,877	0.8	0.9
Farm, For., Fish.	152	0.6	20.6	21.3	997	539	1.9	2.2
Processing	868	3.5	54.6	24.1	1,394	2,328	0.6	0.9
Machine Trades	1,559	6.4	28.3	14.5	3,338	906	3.7	3.6
Benchwork	2,014	8.2	27.5	55.6	3,109	1,284	2.4	2.9
Structural Work	3,342	.3.6	21.5	4.5	5,761	2,004	2.9	3.0
Misc., & INA	3,224	13.1	31.7	25.2	6,490	2,945	2.2	2.8

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*/ Long-term unemployed refers to unemployment insurance claimants whose current spell of unemployment has lasted 15 weeks or longer.

**/ Inexperienced and improperly coded job applicants are not included in this table.

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Minnesota Labor Market Review

December 1990

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Articles on labor market conditions and the economic welfare of Minnesota workers are welcome. Articles should be submitted complete with tables and graphs. Length should not exceed 8 double-spaced typewritten pages, including graphs, references, and notes. The editor reserves the right to edit articles for length and clarity.

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Feature Article

Clear As Mud

Ever wonder why the nonfarm payroll employment series and the total employment series often tell different--even conflicting--stories? Often, and seemingly inexplicably, changes in one series look nothing like changes in the other, sometimes even moving in different directions. Moreover, the basic employment levels sometimes don't seem right between the two series.

Look at the data for Duluth in Table 1., for example. It says, just for openers, that nonfarm payroll employment was between 11 and 13 thousand greater than total employment. Can the part be 30% greater than the whole? And, as the figures show for March to April 1989, did nonfarm employment really increase by 1,354 while total employment decreased by 430? In Duluth City, that kind of difference can't be accounted for by farming (cutting back in the Spring?) nor by the self-employed.

Table 1. Changes in Duluth's total employment and nonfarm payroll employment from month to month often not only differ in number of workers, but move in opposite directions.

	Nonfarm Payroll Emp.	Total Emp.	Change: Month-Month			
			Percent		Numeric	
			Nonfarm	Total	Nonfarm	Total
1989						
Jan	47,861	36,388	-1.0	-0.1	-489	37
Feb	47,434	34,401	-0.9	-5.5	-427	-1,987
Mar	47,547	35,879	0.2	4.3	113	1,478
Apr	48,901	35,449	2.8	-1.2	1354	-430
May	49,363	36,091	0.9	1.8	462	642
Jun	49,380	26,260	0	0.5	17	169
Jul	49,403	36,790	0	1.9	23	530
Aug	49,403	37,236	0	1.2	0	446
Sep	49,141	37,462	-0.5	0.6	-262	226
Oct	49,697	37,711	1.1	0.7	556	249
Nov	49,989	38,293	0.6	1.5	292	582
Dec	49,761	37,709	-0.5	-1.5	-228	-584
1990						
Jan	49,203	37,909	-1.1	0.5	-558	200
Feb	49,040	37,633	-0.3	-0.7	-163	-276
Mar	49,057	37,350	0	-0.8	17	-283
Apr	49,038	36,651	0	-1.9	-19	-699
May	49,562	37,251	1.1	1.6	524	600
Jun	50,385	37,828	1.7	1.5	823	577
Jul	49,859	38,433	-1.0	1.6	-526	605
Aug	50,180	38,686	0.6	0.7	321	253
Sep	50,362	38,008	0.4	-1.8	182	-687

Differences between the two employment series in other MSAs are not that dramatic, but they certainly are inconsistent. The two series are nearly at the same level in the Twin Cities; in the St. Cloud MSA total employment runs about 23% above nonfarm employment; Rochester MSA's total employment runs a scant 3% above nonfarm employment.

Given that nonfarm payroll employment is about 90% of total employment in Minnesota depending upon the season, and as logic would suggest, should control about 90% of the changes in total employment, why are these relationships all over the place? Why can't the two series get their stories together?

Minnesota is not the only state with readers asking these questions. In every state, and even at the national level, these discrepancies occur. The Bureau of Labor Statistics has published a number of papers addressing the problem, but few of them find their way into the hands of the public unless they read from periodicals such as the *Monthly Labor Review*.

For those readers who are still scratching their heads trying to figure out whether an area's economy improved or got worse when one set of figures says there were more jobs and another says there were fewer workers, we'll try to explain it. But don't start cheering yet. The reasons are intricate, and therefore, tough to explain. Hopefully though, you will better understand what the two employment series represent, and why they don't have to agree.

It all has to do with what the two series measure, how the data is collected, and how total employment is estimated. Pay attention now, here it comes.

How Employment Data Is Collected

There are two approaches to estimating employment. One is to ask a sample of household members about who is working: where they work, what kind of work they do, if they were looking for work, and so on. That's how the Census Bureau conducts their Current Population Survey (CPS) each month for the Department of Labor.

The resultant estimates of employment and unemployment are used to identify and fund troubled areas for various economic development programs such as job training.

The other way to estimate employment is to ask a sample of employers about their workers: how many there are, at what jobs, at what wages, for how many hours, and so on. That's how nonfarm payroll employment is estimated. It turns out that "household" surveys can tell one story, and "establishment" surveys can tell another.

If you think about it for a minute, you can see why.

Household surveys count employment where workers **live**; establishment surveys record employment at the place of **work**. If you live in one place and work in another, the two surveys could record you in different places depending on the definition of the areas. This is the primary reason Duluth's payroll employment is larger than total employment.

What The Two Series Measure

That brings us to the concept of "jobs" and "workers". The terms are not interchangable. Each views employment from a different angle. This is important, because it is the second reason the two employment series can disagree.

Because household surveys count people, not jobs, if you hold two or more jobs, you will be counted as one employed worker. Each employer you work for, however, will report you as an employee. Given that 6.2% of all workers hold more than one job, and that the trend is upward, a count of jobs will differ significantly from a count of workers.

The **household based** CPS, which measures total employment, includes all employed people who work at least one hour for pay during the survey week or at least 15 unpaid hours in a family business. It therefore includes the self-employed as well as those who work for a paycheck. It includes agricultural workers and even those with a job but on an unpaid absence.

By definition, **nonfarm payroll employment** excludes certain kinds of workers. Obviously, it excludes most agricultural workers, although it does include those employed in agricultural industries such as landscaping and veterinary services, as well as payroll jobs in forestry and fisheries. Also excluded are the self-employed, unpaid family and private household workers.

How Nonfarm Payroll Employment Is Estimated

Nonfarm payroll employment estimates for Minnesota and its MSAs are derived from a monthly sample of 6,250 employers throughout the state. This survey is a cooperative effort between the Research Office and the Bureau of Labor Statistics known as the

Current Employment Statistics program (CES). These firms employ about 30% of the state's salaried workers. A sample of employers volunteer information on how many workers they employed during the week including the 12th of the month. Some employers report the number of female workers, total hours, and number of production or supervisory workers.

Generally, about half of the sampled employers respond in time to be included in the next month's estimate. As stragglers' reports arrive, these preliminary estimates are revised. The series is benchmarked each year to payroll counts mandatorily submitted by almost all nonfarm employers.

How Total Employment Is Estimated

Ideally, Minnesota's labor force data (total employment and unemployment estimates) would be produced from the state's proportion of the national household-based CPS. Labor force estimates for the nation and the 11 largest states are produced this way, but the problem for smaller states like Minnesota is that their portions of the national survey (about 800 households in Minnesota) are too small to produce reliable estimates. Taking that reasoning further, realistic estimates for counties and metro areas would be totally out of the question.

Monthly estimates of total employment for Minnesota are developed here in the Research and Statistics Office from a regression-type methodology known as the variable coefficient model. The model synthesizes data from several sources (e.g. the CES and the CPS) to form a hybrid estimate which effectively dampens random sampling swings inherent in the CPS. At the end of a calendar year, the monthly model estimates are fine-tuned in a manner that makes the 12-month average of the model estimates equal the CPS annual average. The calendar year average of the CPS estimates is considered reliable because many of the random up and down swings tend to be cancelled out.

Below the state level (e.g. counties), employment estimates are built up using employer records of employment which are projected to the current month being estimated. That accounts for most payroll jobs. Self-employed, farm workers and other small groups of workers are estimated using techniques which rely on Census data and change factors derived from national or regional sources. The sum of the estimates for all the state's geographic areas are then compared to the model's figures and adjusted proportionally so the sum of the parts is equal to the whole. Finally, at the end of the year this process is repeated to benchmark area estimates to the CPS annual average revised figure.

Because the model accepts the CPS annual average as **the** answer, everything--including seasonality--becomes subordinate to it. Consequently, monthly changes in total job level are probably distorted at times.

Which brings us back to Duluth. It's difficult to estimate employment for Duluth because total employment estimates for MSAs such as Duluth-Superior are calculated as a unit. Cities are subsequently broken out, as are counties--e.g. Benton, Stearns and Sherburne Counties from the St. Cloud MSA. Since the total employment estimates already include the influences of the establishment survey (CES), MSA s are split on the basis of population because, remember, total employment is **residence** based.

This approach has inherent difficulties. A layoff, for example of 1,000 workers living and working in Superior, Wisconsin, would drop the job level there by 1,000, but the methodology doesn't provide any way to prevent Duluth from being assigned a portion of that job loss. The factors used to divide up jobs among component areas are static from month to month.

Which Series Tells The More Accurate Story?

Even at the national level the two series can disagree. Labor Department economist Paul O. Flaim thinks that one reason for the generally widening gap between the two U.S. series is that the household sample tends to understate job growth and that the payroll survey tends to overestimate employment growth because it counts jobs, not employed people. National-level data suggests that the multiple job holding picked up on payroll counts caused about two-thirds of the divergence in the two series since 1985.

Wayne Graner, the Research and Statistics analyst who develops Minnesota's labor force data, says that "the nonfarm payroll series can have quite different seasonal patterns which can cause big differences in the two series for a particular month. Although some of the difference is real, it pales compared to the random sampling error in the household data."

"The State CPS sample is small," Graner adds, "plus about one-third of the households are dropped and replaced each month. This can cause big sampling errors. The State establishment survey, conversely, is relatively large and pretty much has the same firms reporting over time. Thus, the CES survey has much more built-in comparability from one month to the next. And that is probably the biggest factor in causing changes in the two employment series to disagree."

What are we left with from all this?

We have partial employment that can exceed the total. But we can explain much of that away by commuting and multiple job holding in the MSAs, except perhaps, in Duluth where it requires a Beamonesque leap of faith.

Table 2. **Between 1986 and 1989, Minnesota's nonfarm payroll employment rose 197,000 (10.4%) while total employment rose 130,000 (6.2%). If accurate, the difference would have to come from farming, the self-employed, unpaid family workers, private household workers, dual job holders and commuters.**

	Nonfarm Payroll Employment (In thousands)	Total Employment	Change: Month to Month			
			Percent		Numeric	
			Nonfarm	Total	Nonfarm	Total
1980	1770.3	1985.0	-	-	-	-
1981	1761.3	2035.0	-0.5	2.5	-8.9	50.0
1982	1707.3	1998.0	-3.1	-1.8	-54.0	-37.0
1983	1718.2	1998.0	0.6	0	10.9	0
1984	1819.8	2086.0	5.9	4.4	101.6	88.0
1985	1865.4	2091.0	2.5	0.2	45.6	5.0
1986	1893.9	2111.0	1.5	1.0	28.5	20.0
1987	1962.5	2139.0	3.6	1.3	68.6	28.0
1988	2028.0	2233.0	3.6	4.4	134.1	94.0
1989	2091.2	2241.0	3.1	0.4	63.2	8.0

We have a total employment series, 90% of which reflects nonfarm payroll jobs, that can increase or decrease over the month while the nonfarm payroll series itself moves significantly to the contrary. That can be somewhat accounted for by an agricultural component that moves independently of nonfarm payroll employment. But, as you now know, the overwhelming reasons are, 1) the two series do not measure the same thing--one representing workers by residence, the other, jobs by place of work, and 2), the methodology for estimating monthly total employment subjects the data to annoying CPS errors associated with Minnesota's small share of the national sample.

The people here in the R & S Office who compile and work with the two series would say, "Put your money on the nonfarm payroll data." That's not to say that current payroll data is flawless. Current payroll estimates have their own sampling deficiencies.

Mercifully, we are left with the realization that owing to all the definitional and sampling differences, the nonfarm payroll series **shouldn't** be expected to parallel household-based total employment trends. But, if the total employment series were more accurate, the two series would agree much more than they do. Unfortunately, Minnesota's CPS sample is too small for that.

Most analysts at the state level, and many in the labor department, are not happy with the labor force estimates for states and smaller areas. But to get appreciably better data would require huge state and area samples and would take more money than it would be worth.

So you pays your money and you takes your chances. If you are smart, you'll remember what each series is meant to measure, and you'll view each series over time to ferret out real trends that emerge. It's not like you can look up the answer in the back of the book.

By Ron Daws

The Nation

By Don Hilber

Recession More Likely as Number of Jobs Keeps Dropping

In October there were 68,000 fewer nonfarm wage and salary jobs in the United States than during the previous month. It was the fourth straight month that the number of jobs declined. While the evidence is only suggestive, it looks like a string of decreases typically associated with recessions. A downturn in the economy can't be fully determined until at least spring, when first quarter 1991 production figures are known. Through September of this year, Gross National Product (GNP) was still growing.

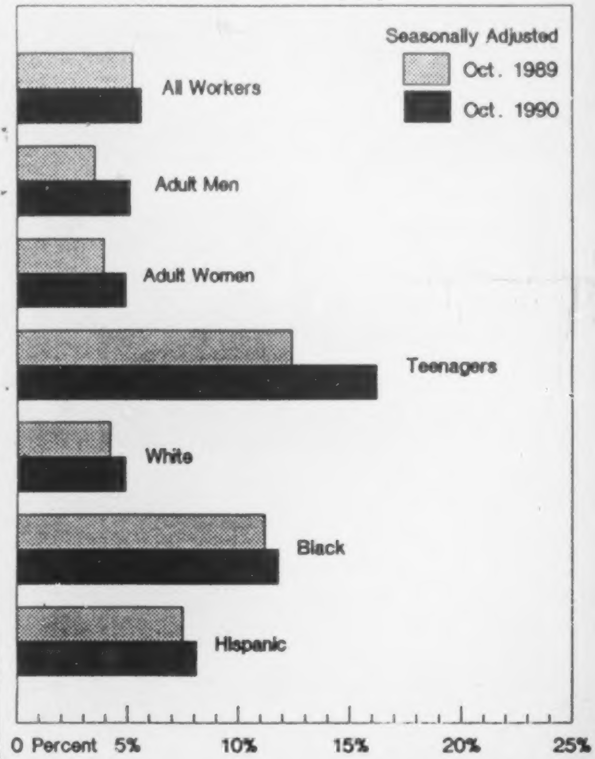
The drop in jobs can no longer be attributed to the release of temporary Census workers. More industries each month join the ranks of those using fewer employees. All of construction, most manufacturing and the largest industries in trade have now experienced repeated months of employment declines. The number of jobs in financial and business services are stable, while health services and local education remain the industries of strength.

Fewer jobs mean reduced incomes. Combined with lower consumer confidence in the wake of the Gulf crisis, the federal budget debacle and sluggish property values, this leads to fewer sales and less spending. Consequently, companies pare their workforces. Layoffs have already started to rise at a pace similar to the onset of previous recessions. While the unemployment rate for October remained constant at 5.7%, it still is up from June's 5.2%.

U. S. and Twin Cities Consumer Price Index

	UNITED STATES				TWIN CITIES			
DATE	CPI-W	% CHNG YR AGO	CPI-U	% CHNG YR AGO	CPI-W	% CHNG YR AGO	CPI-U	% CHNG YR AGO
1988								
A.A.	117.0	4.0	118.3	4.1	115.5	5.2	117.2	5.0
1989								
Jan	119.7	4.5	121.1	4.7	(1st		(1st	
Feb	120.2	4.8	121.6	4.8	Half		Half	
Mar	120.8	5.0	122.3	5.0	Av.)		Av.)	
Apr	121.8	5.3	123.1	5.1	118.3	3.7	120.3	4.0
May	122.5	5.4	123.8	5.4				
Jun	122.8	5.2	124.1	5.2				
Jul	123.2	5.1	124.4	5.0				
Aug	123.2	4.7	124.6	4.7	(2nd		(2nd	
Sep	123.6	4.3	125.0	4.3	Half		Half	
Oct	124.2	4.5	125.6	4.5	Av.)		Av.)	
Nov	124.4	4.5	125.9	4.7	121.8	4.2	123.8	4.4
Dec	124.6	4.5	126.1	4.6				
A.A.	122.6	4.8	124.0	4.8	120.1	4.0	122.0	4.1
1990								
Jan	125.9	5.2	127.4	5.2	(1st		(1st	
Feb	126.4	5.2	128.0	5.3	Half		Half	
Mar	127.1	5.2	128.7	5.2	Av.)		Av.)	
Apr	127.3	4.5	128.9	4.7	123.1	4.1	125.5	4.3
May	127.5	4.1	129.2	4.4				
Jun	128.3	4.5	129.9	4.7				
Jul	128.7	4.5	130.4	4.8				
Aug	129.9	5.4	131.6	5.6				
Sept	131.1	6.1	132.7	6.2				
Oct	131.9	6.2	133.5	6.3				

U.S. Unemployment Rates by Age & Sex



Minnesota

Unlike Nation, Job Growth in Minnesota Continues

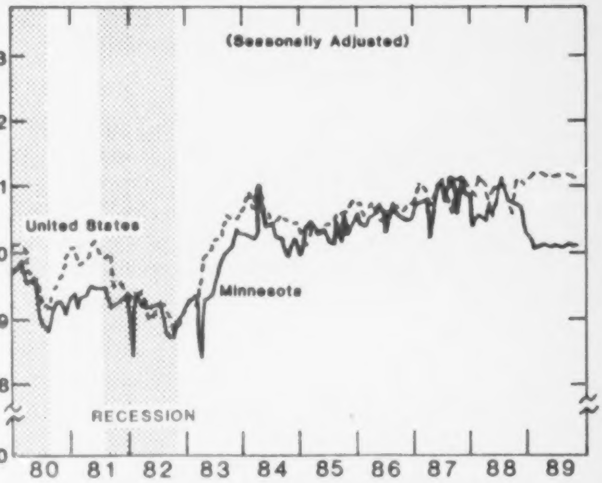
Job growth this fall has not been robust, but at least it has been growing. While the number of jobs in the U.S. dropped during the last four months, they rose substantially in Minnesota from September to October to reach a new seasonally-adjusted high. Nintey percent of the gain over the month and all of it in the past year, however, was in the service-producing sector. Employment has been rising erratically in trade and financial services, steadily in business, consumer and health services, and rapidly in local government education.

Jobs are growing at a pace that keeps unemployment from rising substantially, as in other states. The unemployment rate stood at 4.2% in October, a seasonally-typical drop from September's 4.5%, yet higher than the 3.8% in October 1989. The unemployment rate may be edging upward ever so slightly, having been higher than the year-ago figure in each of the last four months.

Average weekly initial claims for unemployment insurance have been running only minutely above year-ago tallies. Meanwhile, total number of weeks claimed has been rising two to three times faster than the total number of people claiming. This suggests longer spells of unemployment more than it does sharp increases in the number of layoffs. In general, Minnesota employers are not resorting to drastic job reduction measures, but are adding jobs ever so cautiously. New openings are not as plentiful.

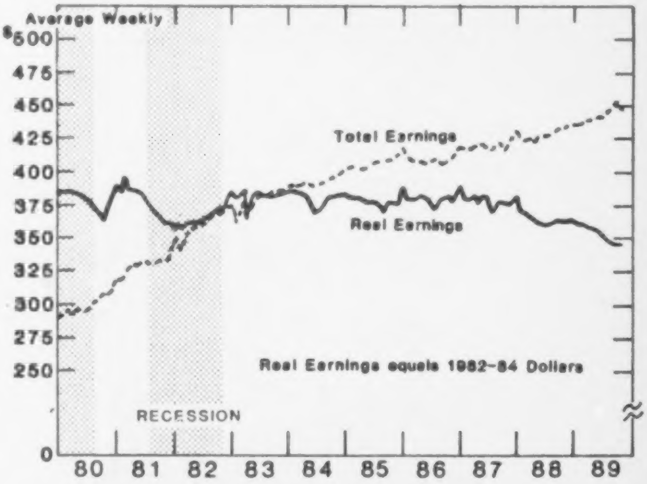
By Don Hilber

Average Weekly Hours, Manufacturing



Hours worked rise during prosperity, usually to 40 hours per week or more, and drop during recessions. Manufacturing hours are a leading indicator of economic health because employers increase hours before hiring additional workers. Manufacturing hours are generally more cyclically sensitive than hours worked in other industries.

Minnesota Earnings, Manufacturing

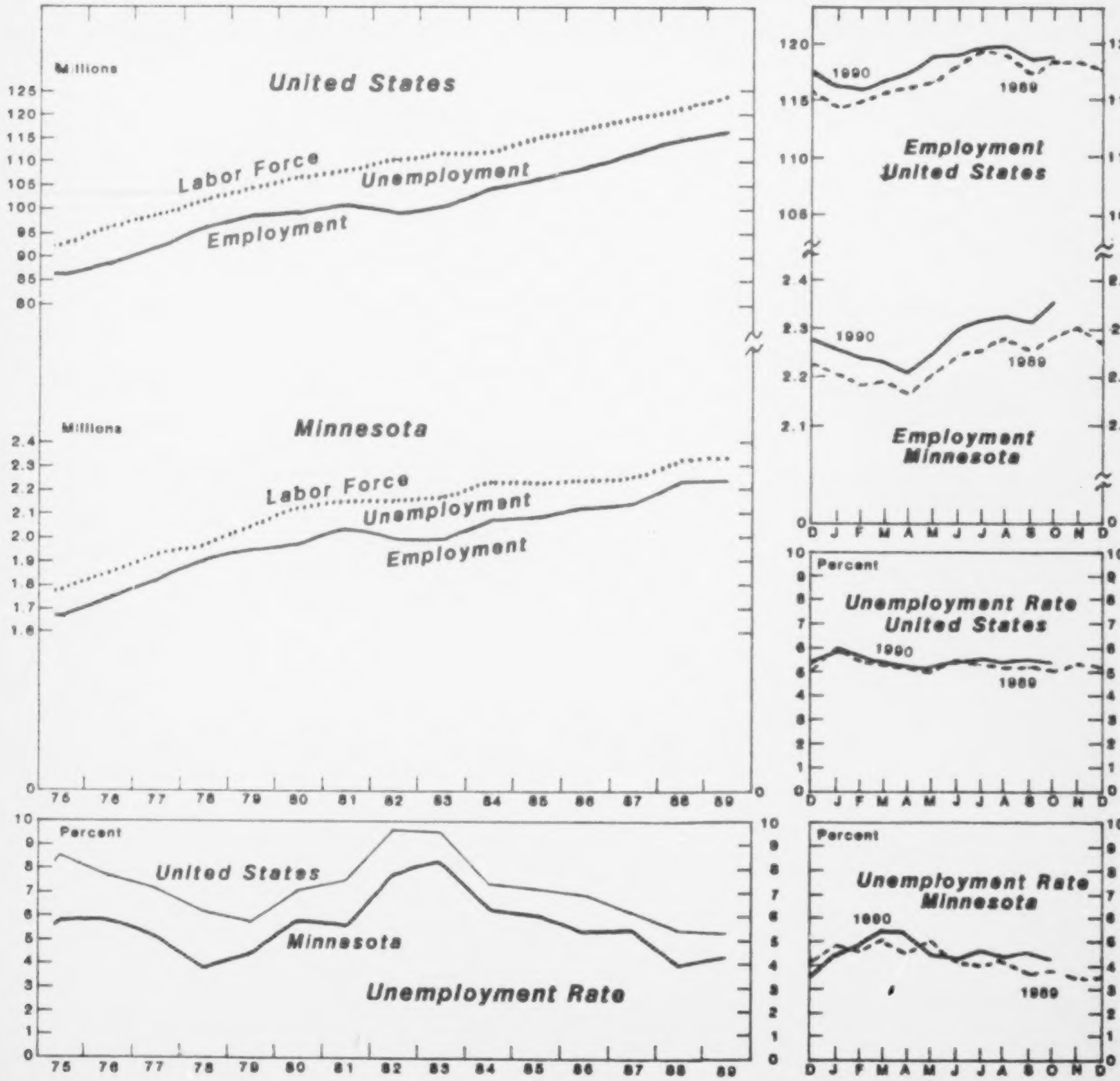


Total earnings are actual earnings. Real earnings are adjusted by the Twin Cities Consumer Price Index-U to gauge actual buying power in constant 1982-84 dollars. The graph shows, for example, that although total earnings have risen since 1982, purchasing power has remained roughly unchanged. Other industries would not necessarily display the same trend.

Labor Force Estimates

	Minnesota (In Thousands)			United States (In Thousands)		
	Oct 90	Sep 90	Oct 89	Oct 90	Sep 90	Oct 89
Labor Force	2,462.1	2,428.5	2,384.0	125,020	124,779	124,416
Employment	2,357.8	2,318.1	2,293.6	118,299	117,961	118,194
Unemployment	104.3	110.5	90.4	6,722	6,818	6,222
Act. Unemp. Rt.	4.2	4.5	3.8	5.4	5.5	5.0
S.A. Unemp. Rt.	-	-	-	5.7	5.7	5.3

U.S. And Minnesota Employment, Unemployment And Unemployment Rate



Minnesota Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment, Hours & Earnings

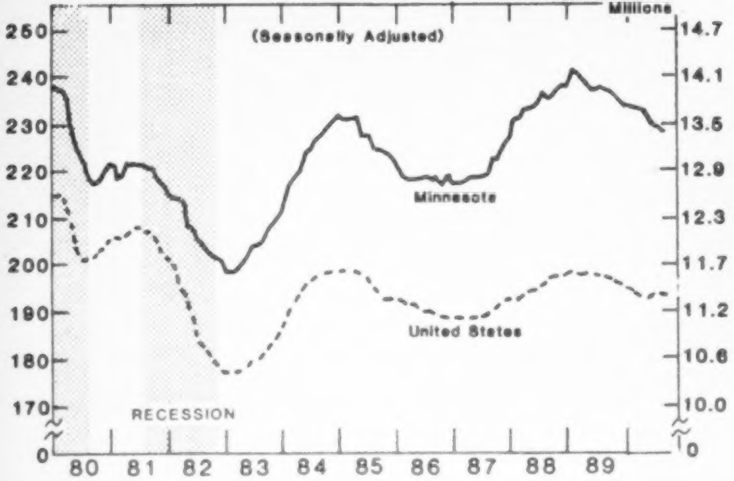
INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT 1/ (thousands)			PERCENT CHANGE FROM		PRODUCTION WORKERS' HOURS & EARNINGS 2/					
						Average Weekly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings	
	Oct. 1990	Sep. 1990	Oct. 1989	Sep. 1990	Oct. 1989	Oct. 1990	Oct. 1989	Oct. 1990	Oct. 1989	Oct. 1990	Oct. 1989
Total Nonfarm Wage & Salary	2,167.9	2,153.1	2,132.5	0.7	1.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goods Producing	495.3	502.6	498.4	-1.5	-0.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mining	8.6	8.7	8.1	-1.3	6.2	645.32	597.92	44.2	43.9	14.60	13.62
Metal Mining	6.5	6.6	6.0	-0.7	8.4	666.43	610.53	43.7	43.3	15.25	14.10
Construction	89.0	90.7	88.8	-2.0	0.2	701.40	670.74	41.8	41.2	16.78	16.28
Manufacturing	397.7	403.1	401.5	-1.3	-0.9	454.66	453.17	40.2	40.9	11.31	11.08
Durable Goods	229.9	231.4	235.4	-0.6	-2.3	462.98	467.52	40.4	41.3	11.46	11.32
Lumber and Furniture	23.1	24.0	22.8	-3.9	1.1	484.07	490.64	37.7	37.8	12.84	12.98
Stone, Clay and Glass	9.3	9.4	9.6	-1.3	-3.5	514.61	477.48	42.6	42.9	12.08	11.13
Primary Metals	6.4	6.4	6.5	-1.1	-2.6	493.78	439.43	43.2	40.5	11.43	10.85
Fabricated Metals	34.3	34.4	35.3	-0.5	-2.8	480.98	481.32	40.9	42.0	11.76	11.46
Industrial Machinery	78.5	78.4	82.9	0.0	-5.3	479.59	497.70	40.2	42.0	11.93	11.85
Office and Computing	34.5	34.6	38.1	-0.4	-9.5	510.94	516.74	42.9	42.6	11.91	12.13
Electronic Equipment	28.6	28.5	28.1	0.1	1.8	397.55	398.55	40.9	41.3	9.72	9.65
Transportation Equipment	11.8	11.9	11.8	-1.0	0.2	445.56	482.05	39.5	42.1	11.28	11.45
Instruments and Related	32.2	32.3	32.7	-0.3	-1.6	448.86	445.63	41.6	42.2	10.79	10.56
Misc. Manufacturing	5.9	5.9	5.7	0.8	3.9	412.23	414.07	39.0	39.1	10.57	10.59
Nondurable Goods	167.8	171.8	166.1	-2.3	1.0	444.40	437.40	40.0	40.5	11.11	10.80
Food & Beverage Products	48.1	52.0	48.4	-7.5	-0.5	401.13	405.23	40.6	42.3	9.88	9.58
Textiles & Apparel	4.8	4.8	5.2	-1.7	-9.0	299.46	296.35	37.2	39.2	8.05	7.56
Paper Products	33.8	33.8	33.3	-0.3	1.2	560.42	560.58	42.2	42.5	13.28	13.19
Printing and Publishing	52.8	52.6	50.7	0.4	4.0	438.92	430.54	38.2	38.0	11.49	11.33
Chemicals and Petroleum	11.8	11.8	11.7	-0.6	0.5	531.96	511.25	40.3	40.9	13.20	12.50
Rubber and Plastic	16.6	16.6	16.7	-0.3	-0.8	392.80	377.45	40.0	39.4	9.82	9.58
Service Producing	1,672.6	1,650.5	1,634.1	1.3	2.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transp., Comm., & Util.	111.0	110.4	108.4	0.5	2.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	76.6	75.6	73.2	1.2	4.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trucking & Warehousing	28.5	28.5	28.2	-0.2	0.9	446.78	432.50	35.6	34.6	12.55	12.50
Communication & Utilities	34.4	34.8	35.2	-1.0	-2.2	648.43	603.70	40.2	38.6	16.13	15.64
Trade	529.1	531.1	523.0	-0.4	1.2	243.14	240.13	29.4	29.5	8.27	8.14
Wholesale	130.6	130.8	128.1	-0.2	1.9	421.50	423.26	37.6	38.2	11.21	11.08
Retail	398.5	400.3	394.9	-0.4	0.9	189.65	186.57	26.9	27.0	7.05	6.91
Building Materials	18.6	18.6	18.7	0.2	-0.4	339.84	349.15	37.1	38.2	9.16	9.14
General Merchandise	60.2	58.8	60.5	2.3	-0.5	184.37	180.67	25.5	25.7	7.23	7.03
Food Stores	55.7	55.8	53.9	-0.1	3.3	196.10	190.40	26.9	27.2	7.29	7.00
Automotive	44.3	44.2	43.1	0.1	2.8	299.90	295.48	35.2	34.6	7.52	8.54
Apparel	20.1	20.2	20.3	-0.1	-0.9	299.48	280.80	36.3	35.1	8.25	8.00
Home Furnishings	16.7	16.5	16.7	1.0	-0.1	272.99	267.38	30.4	31.2	8.98	8.57
Eating and Drinking	131.8	135.7	130.8	-2.9	0.7	119.93	118.73	22.8	23.1	5.26	5.14
Fin., Insur., Real Estate	123.8	123.9	121.1	-0.1	2.2						
Finance	56.2	56.0	55.3	0.4	1.6						
Insurance	46.6	46.6	45.1	-0.1	3.3						
Real Estate	21.1	21.3	20.7	-1.1	1.5						
Services	565.6	564.3	547.4	0.2	3.3						
Personal Services	25.9	25.6	25.5	1.4	1.6						
Business Services	99.6	100.6	96.7	-1.0	3.0						
Repair Services	23.6	23.3	22.6	1.2	4.4						
Health Services	166.9	167.4	162.3	-0.3	2.9						
Nursing Homes	43.8	43.9	42.8	-0.4	2.2						
Hospitals	55.4	55.8	54.6	-0.6	1.6						
Legal Services	15.9	15.9	15.6	0.3	2.2						
Private Education	32.9	27.1	32.8	21.6	0.3						
Government	343.2	320.9	334.2	7.0	2.7						
Federal	34.1	34.3	34.5	-0.5	-1.1						
State	86.2	77.6	84.5	11.1	2.0						
Education	49.0	40.3	48.0	21.5	2.1						
Local	222.9	209.0	215.1	6.6	3.6						
Education	120.1	103.7	115.0	15.9	4.5						

Note: Not all industry sub-groups are shown for every major industry category.

1/ Totals may not add because of rounding.

2/ Average earnings data are on a "gross" basis and are derived from reports of payroll for full-time and part-time production or non-supervisory workers. The payroll is reported before deductions of any kind. Bonuses, retroactive pay, tips, payment in kind, and "fringe benefits" are excluded.

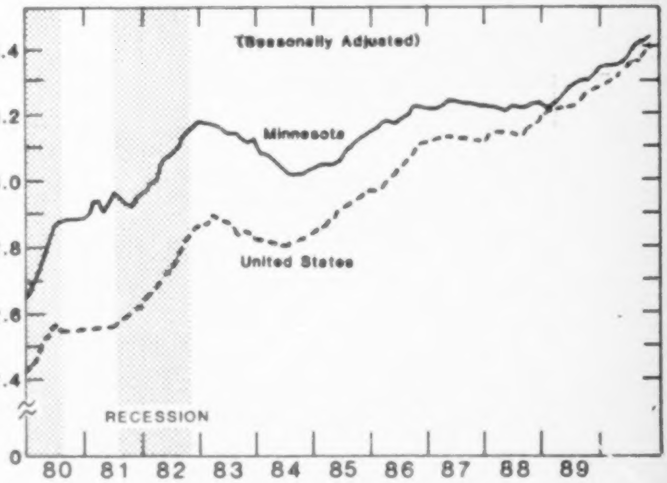
Manufacturing Employment, Durable Goods



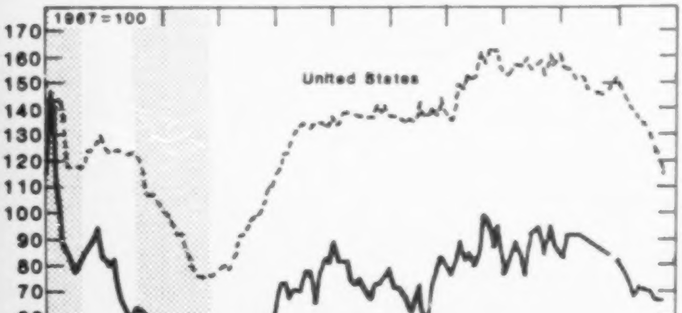
Measures level and compares rate of change from month to month. Rising number of durable-goods producing jobs reflects current and anticipated demand for big ticket products such as cars, appliances, electronics and housing. Increased durable goods producing jobs is an indicator of prosperity--low unemployment and high wages. It can, however, also reflect buying now in anticipation of rising prices.

Ratio of Services to Goods Producing Jobs

Relative number of service-producing to goods-producing jobs. The general trend is upward and accelerates during recessions when goods-producing jobs decline. The chart shows, for example, that during 1980 there were roughly 35 goods-producing jobs for every 100 service-producing jobs. By 1988 the ratio had dropped to about 30 goods-producing jobs for every 100 service-producing jobs. While Minnesota's ratio is higher, the nation is catching up.



Conference Board Help Wanted Index



Measures employers' demand for labor. Based on daily volume of help wanted ads in one newspaper in each of 51 cities. Reflects relative level and monthly change in the number of job openings resulting from vacancies in existing jobs, or the creation of new jobs. Adjusted for seasonal variation, number of Sundays, and days in the month.

Insured Unemployment Claimaints

SELECTED MINNESOTA PROGRAM STATISTICS

Distribution of Insured Unemployed by Industry and Occupation, October 1990

Industry Attachment	Number	Percent of Total	Percent*/ Long-Term Unemployed	Women as Percent of total
TOTAL, ALL INDUSTRIES	25,956	100.0	29.4	38.7
Ag., For., Fish.	243	0.9	14.8	31.0
Mining	81	0.3	45.1	31.0
Construction	3,195	12.3	15.0	7.3
Manufacturing	7,542	29.1	29.6	34.8
Public Utilities	1,218	4.7	28.0	31.9
Wholesale Trade	2,128	8.2	34.8	33.2
Retail Trade	3,326	12.8	33.3	46.4
Fin., Ins., Re. Est.	1,275	4.9	39.4	59.8
Services	5,189	20.0	32.8	57.2
Public Admin.	762	2.9	21.9	43.9
Info. Not Available	997	3.8	28.6	38.0

Distribution of Insured Unemployed by Age and Sex, October 1990

Age Groups	Number	Percent Distribution		
		Men of Totals	Men of Men	Women of Women
TOTALS	25,956	61.5	100.0	100.0
Under 45	19,007	62.0	73.8	72.4
Under 25	2,906	62.1	11.3	11.0
25-34	9,031	62.9	35.6	33.5
35-44	7,070	60.7	26.9	27.8
45 and over	6,949	60.3	26.2	27.6
45-54	4,329	59.9	16.2	17.4
55 and over	2,620	61.0	10.0	10.2

Experienced Supply/Job Openings Demand**/

Occupational Attachment					Applicants (Supply) Oct. 1990	Job Openings (Demand) Oct. 1990	Supply/Demand Ratio	
							Oct. 1990	Oct. 1989
TOTAL, ALL OCCUPATIONS	25,956	100.0	29.4	38.7	53,222	23,527	2.3	2.4
Prof., Tech., Mgr.	6,596	25.4	37.7	40.4	15,519	1,969	7.9	5.8
Clerical	3,938	15.2	32.8	80.5	9,959	3,416	2.9	3.0
Sales	1,598	6.2	33.1	34.7	3,674	3,225	1.1	1.3
Services	1,653	6.4	29.0	57.4	5,095	5,894	0.9	0.8
Farm, For., Fish.	210	0.8	11.9	23.9	668	479	1.4	0.9
Processing	730	2.8	35.4	26.4	1,200	2,041	0.6	0.9
Machine Trades	1,691	6.5	24.0	13.7	3,241	752	4.3	4.1
Benchwork	2,520	9.7	21.6	52.8	2,887	1,464	2.0	2.7
Structural Work	3,938	15.2	16.6	4.5	5,315	1,582	3.4	4.8
Misc., & INA	3,082	11.9	31.3	22.1	5,957	2,705	2.2	3.2

*/ Long-term unemployed refers to unemployment insurance claimants whose current spell of unemployment has lasted 15 weeks or longer.

**/ Inexperienced and improperly coded job applicants are not included in this table.

Forecasts of Real GNP and Minnesota Employment

Forecasts of both the national economy (RGNP) and Minnesota nonfarm wage and salary employment (MN employment) continue to show growth, but at ever slowing rates.

Over the next 24 months, we expect RGNP to grow 1.7% per year and MN employment to grow at a yearly rate of 2.3% .

Over the next two 12 month periods, RGNP is forecasted to grow at 1.9% over the first year, and 1.5% over the second. MN employment will grow at 2.2% and 2.4% over the same periods.

The table gives the actual values for 1990:3. Values for other periods are the forecasts. There is a probability distribution surrounding these. For example, the one standard deviations for RGNP increase from $ 42.5 for 1990:4 to $ 120.8 billion for 1992.4. This means, for 1990:4 for example, that there is a 66% probability that the range 4149.46 to 4234.46 will contain the true value. Those for MN employment increase from 16.5 to 47.8 thousand. Thus recession odds are about 40%.

Year:Qtr	Real GNP (Seasonally Adj Billions)	MN Employment (Not S.A. Thousands)
1990:3	4173.10	2143.21
1990:4	4191.96	2163.77
1991:1	4213.09	2129.87
1991:2	4233.35	2187.54
1991:3	4253.00	2186.79
1991:4	4270.50	2210.61
1992:1	4287.40	2178.22
1992:2	4303.94	2238.21
1992:3	4320.34	2239.66
1992:4	4335.57	2262.80

One period ahead errors for 1990:3 were 0.45% for MN employment and 0.04% for RGNP.

By Charles Cline

Metropolitan Areas

Minneapolis–St. Paul MSA

Unemployment Rate Drops Seasonally

The unemployment rate in the Minneapolis - St. Paul metropolitan area declined to 4.1% in October, a drop of 0.3 of a percentage point from September. The average September to October change over the past decade was a decrease of 0.4 of a percentage point.

Employment, as measured both by number of employed workers and nonfarm payroll jobs, showed more strength in October than in the previous five months. The total number of employed Twin Cities residents increased by 1.9% in October, higher than the 10 year average of 1.5%. It was also substantially higher than the national employment growth rate of 0.3%.

Nonfarm payroll jobs showed an increase after adjustments for seasonal factors. One pleasant development was some moderation of job loss in the goods-producing sector which had declined sharply the last six months. The number of construction jobs remained the same after falling in five of the last six months. There were fewer jobs in the cyclically-sensitive durable goods sector, but nondurable goods producers added workers. An additional sign of economic slowdown in the manufacturing sector is the shorter work-week for production workers, 40.2 hours this year compared to 41.0 last year.

Jobs in the service-producing sector also rebounded in October, thanks mostly to growth in educational services employment. Nearly all major industry categories showed job increases. The exceptions were whole-sale trade and communications/utilities.

By Bruce Steuernagel

LABOR FORCE DATA

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	Oct. 1990	Sep. 1990	Oct. 1989	Oct. 1990	Sep. 1990	Oct. 1989	Oct. 1990	Sep. 1990	Oct. 1989
Mpls-St. Paul	1,399,022	1,372,495	1,368,204	59,656	63,567	51,126	4.1	4.4	3.6
REGION 11	1,313,479	1,288,179	1,283,829	55,296	59,811	48,101	4.0	4.4	3.6
Anoka	135,085	132,483	132,036	6,503	7,008	5,468	4.6	5.0	4.0
Carver	25,170	24,686	24,602	981	1,049	845	3.8	4.1	3.3
Dakota	147,931	145,082	144,592	5,932	6,268	5,091	3.9	4.1	3.4
Hennepin	621,485	609,513	607,455	26,099	28,708	22,780	4.0	4.5	3.6
Ramsey	277,919	272,566	271,645	11,473	12,407	10,129	4.0	4.4	3.6
Scott	29,759	29,186	29,088	1,177	1,309	1,203	3.8	4.3	4.0
Washington	76,130	74,663	74,411	3,131	3,062	2,585	4.0	3.9	3.4
Chisago	14,522	14,243	14,195	880	830	621	5.7	5.5	4.2
Isanti	12,297	12,060	12,019	676	682	550	5.2	5.4	4.4
Wright	33,634	32,986	32,875	1,697	1,649	1,224	4.8	4.8	3.6
St. Croix, WI	25,089	25,028	25,287	1,105	597	629	4.2	2.3	2.4
Bloomington	58,264	57,142	56,949	2,347	2,690	2,089	3.9	4.5	3.5
Minneapolis	204,953	201,005	200,327	9,691	10,788	8,532	4.5	5.1	4.1
St. Paul	143,295	140,535	140,060	7,042	7,552	6,142	4.7	5.1	4.2

Mpls.-St. Paul Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment, Hours & Earnings

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT 1/ (thousands)			PERCENT CHANGE FROM		PRODUCTION WORKERS' HOURS & EARNINGS 2/					
						Average Weekly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings	
	Oct. 1990	Sep. 1990	Oct. 1989	Sep. 1990	Oct. 1989	Oct. 1990	Oct. 1989	Oct. 1990	Oct. 1989	Oct. 1990	Oct. 1989
Total Nonfarm Wage & Salary	1,397.1	1,385.1	1,375.4	0.9	1.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goods Producing	316.0	318.2	320.7	-0.7	-1.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mining	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.8	-25.6	797.74	692.29	47.4	45.1	16.83	15.35
Construction	55.8	56.9	56.2	-2.0	-0.7	761.38	710.80	41.2	40.0	18.48	17.77
Manufacturing	259.7	260.8	263.8	-0.4	-1.6	482.00	477.65	40.2	41.0	11.99	11.65
Durable Goods	155.5	156.3	161.1	-0.6	-3.5	489.65	486.45	40.4	41.4	12.12	11.75
Lumber and Furniture	9.2	10.1	9.3	-8.6	-1.1	545.20	551.31	37.6	38.1	14.50	14.47
Stone, Clay and Glass	3.3	3.3	3.3	-0.9	0.0	549.88	492.85	41.5	40.9	13.25	12.05
Primary Metals	4.6	4.6	4.6	-0.6	-1.2	505.29	412.89	43.9	40.4	11.51	10.22
Fabricated Metals	25.7	25.7	26.7	0.0	-3.7	501.40	482.86	41.2	41.2	12.17	11.72
Industrial Machinery	55.7	55.6	60.2	0.1	-7.6	506.39	536.92	39.5	43.3	12.82	12.40
Office and Computing	22.9	23.0	26.8	-0.4	-14.7	565.91	616.79	40.1	47.3	14.11	13.04
Electronic Equipment	18.2	18.0	17.8	0.8	2.1	405.78	378.67	39.9	39.2	10.17	9.66
Transportation Equipment	5.6	5.7	5.6	-2.1	-0.7	590.85	599.07	39.0	38.8	15.15	15.44
Instruments and Related	29.4	29.4	29.7	-0.1	-1.3	466.99	467.75	42.3	42.6	11.04	10.98
Misc. Manufacturing	3.9	3.9	3.7	-0.1	4.0	471.98	448.80	40.1	40.0	11.77	11.22
Nondurable Goods	104.2	104.4	102.7	-0.2	1.4	471.22	464.26	39.9	40.3	11.81	11.52
Food & Beverage Products	17.3	17.5	17.4	-1.1	-0.6	521.89	487.34	43.6	42.9	11.97	11.36
Paper Products	25.9	25.9	25.6	-0.2	1.0	494.06	503.36	40.2	41.6	12.29	12.10
Printing and Publishing	37.6	37.5	36.0	0.2	4.4	441.88	449.64	37.8	38.3	11.69	11.74
Chemicals and Petroleum	10.2	10.2	9.8	-0.1	4.1	579.56	569.16	40.5	40.8	14.31	13.95
Rubber and Plastic	11.3	11.3	11.4	-0.2	-1.2	406.40	397.76	40.0	40.3	10.16	9.87
Service Producing	1,081.1	1,066.9	1,054.8	1.3	2.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transp., Comm., & Util.	79.1	79.2	76.1	-0.1	4.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	57.5	57.3	54.0	0.4	6.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trucking & Warehousing	18.1	18.1	17.8	-0.3	1.4	427.39	393.98	32.6	30.9	13.11	12.75
Communication & Utilities	21.6	21.9	22.2	-1.3	-2.5	610.32	580.25	38.8	38.3	15.73	15.15
Trade	338.6	335.1	335.1	-0.2	1.0	273.27	270.00	29.8	30.0	9.17	9.00
Wholesale	88.8	89.3	87.2	-0.5	1.9	460.65	461.32	37.0	38.0	12.45	12.14
Retail	249.7	249.8	247.9	-0.0	0.7	213.95	208.51	27.5	27.4	7.78	7.61
Building Materials	10.5	10.4	10.8	0.9	-2.8	406.75	419.23	38.3	39.7	10.62	10.56
General Merchandise	42.8	41.9	43.4	2.3	-1.2	199.41	195.55	25.5	25.9	7.82	7.55
Food Stores	29.8	29.8	29.1	-0.1	2.3	270.52	250.56	29.5	28.9	9.17	8.67
Automotive	25.6	25.6	25.5	0.1	0.6	338.16	316.05	36.4	35.0	9.29	9.03
Apparel	13.7	13.7	13.5	-0.2	1.4	136.06	111.67	21.7	18.8	6.27	5.94
Home Furnishings	11.9	11.8	11.9	0.8	-0.1	319.40	292.20	30.8	30.0	10.37	9.74
Eating and Drinking	83.3	85.0	82.3	-2.0	1.1	133.40	135.51	23.2	23.9	5.75	5.67
Fin., Insur., Real Estate	95.2	95.2	93.1	0.2	2.2						
Finance	40.5	40.3	39.7	0.5	2.1						
Insurance	37.7	37.7	36.8	0.1	2.4						
Real Estate	16.9	17.0	16.6	-0.6	2.0						
Services	378.8	377.1	367.4	0.5	3.1						
Personal Services	18.5	18.3	18.4	1.2	0.6						
Business Services	84.1	84.9	82.6	-0.9	1.8						
Repair Services	17.6	17.6	17.1	0.4	2.8						
Health Services	95.4	95.1	91.4	0.2	4.3						
Nursing Homes	23.1	23.1	22.4	0.0	3.3						
Hospitals	33.3	33.3	32.1	0.1	3.8						
Legal Services	12.8	12.8	12.5	0.2	2.5						
Private Education	17.1	14.5	17.5	17.9	-2.0						
Government	189.4	176.5	183.0	7.3	3.5						
Federal	20.7	20.8	20.7	-0.1	0.0						
State	55.3	49.7	53.9	11.2	2.5						
Education	31.4	25.8	30.5	21.6	2.7						
Local	113.8	106.0	108.3	6.9	4.6						
Education	62.7	54.1	59.4	15.9	5.6						

Note: Not all industry sub-groups are shown for every major industry category.

1/ Totals may not add because of rounding.

2/ Average earnings data are on a "gross" basis and are derived from reports of payroll for full-time and part-time production or non-supervisory workers. The payroll is reported before deductions of any kind. Bonuses, retroactive pay, tips, payment in kind, and "fringe benefits" are excluded.

Central and Northwest Minnesota

LABOR FORCE DATA	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	Oct. 1990	Sep. 1990	Oct. 1989	Oct. 1990	Sep. 1990	Oct. 1989	Oct. 1990	Sep. 1990	Oct. 1989
St. Cloud	102,608	99,427	96,601	4,784	5,125	3,826	4.5	4.9	3.8
REGION 1	43,592	41,720	41,714	2,314	2,515	1,871	5.0	5.7	4.3
Kittson	2,413	2,379	2,356	120	157	104	4.7	6.2	4.2
Marshall	4,702	4,498	4,610	371	404	332	7.3	8.2	6.7
Norman	3,469	3,326	3,573	155	167	123	4.3	4.8	3.3
Pennington	7,054	6,885	6,633	376	382	277	5.1	5.3	4.0
Polk	15,236	14,178	14,551	826	979	695	5.1	6.5	4.6
Red Lake	1,559	1,426	1,408	157	221	137	9.1	13.4	8.9
Roseau	9,159	9,028	8,583	309	205	203	3.3	2.2	2.3
REGION 2	31,500	31,554	29,865	1,989	1,775	1,593	5.9	5.3	5.1
Beltrami	16,892	16,486	15,898	869	840	732	4.9	4.8	4.4
Clearwater	3,161	3,262	3,199	283	316	289	8.2	8.8	8.3
Hubbard	7,226	7,592	6,652	606	422	377	7.7	5.3	5.4
Lake of Woods	1,928	1,944	1,843	88	46	68	4.4	2.3	3.6
Mahnomen	2,293	2,270	2,273	143	151	127	5.9	6.2	5.3
REGION 4	99,549	96,683	96,548	3,967	4,028	3,434	3.8	4.0	3.4
Becker	13,787	13,488	13,266	805	738	668	5.5	5.2	4.8
Clay	26,081	25,222	25,180	685	808	564	2.6	3.1	2.2
Douglas	15,390	14,951	15,315	676	663	567	4.2	4.2	3.6
Grant	2,970	2,837	2,843	136	131	104	4.4	4.4	3.5
Otter Tail	25,481	25,153	24,482	1,143	1,119	992	4.3	4.3	3.9
Pope	4,795	4,724	4,628	224	231	214	4.5	4.7	4.4
Stevens	5,331	4,929	5,333	106	121	127	1.9	2.4	2.3
Traverse	2,073	1,971	2,063	83	90	85	3.8	4.4	4.0
Wilkin	3,641	3,408	3,438	109	127	113	2.9	3.6	3.2
REGION 5	59,935	60,014	59,397	4,276	3,927	3,689	6.7	6.1	5.8
Cass	8,531	8,816	8,065	722	699	637	7.8	7.3	7.3
Crow Wing	22,015	22,254	21,930	1,194	1,136	1,220	5.1	4.9	5.3
Morrison	13,980	14,210	14,182	1,194	1,031	887	7.9	6.8	5.9
Todd	10,723	10,286	10,370	809	713	615	7.0	6.5	5.6
Wadena	4,686	4,448	4,850	357	348	330	7.1	7.3	6.4
REGION 6E	55,182	54,669	54,133	2,345	2,442	2,109	4.1	4.3	3.7
Kandiyohi	20,477	20,284	19,594	692	728	607	3.3	3.5	3.0
McLeod	17,103	17,144	17,100	768	719	624	4.3	4.0	3.5
Meeker	8,688	8,310	8,401	542	583	490	5.9	6.6	5.5
Renville	8,914	8,931	9,038	343	412	388	3.7	4.4	4.1
REGION 7E	52,289	51,593	51,381	3,237	3,245	2,649	5.8	5.9	4.9
Chisago	14,522	14,243	14,195	880	830	621	5.7	5.5	4.2
Isanti	12,297	12,060	12,019	676	682	550	5.2	5.4	4.4
Kanabec	5,518	5,276	5,855	475	517	431	7.9	8.9	6.9
Mille Lacs	9,800	9,686	9,624	489	482	450	4.8	4.7	4.5
Pine	10,152	10,328	9,688	717	734	597	6.6	6.6	5.8
REGION 7W	136,241	132,413	129,476	6,481	6,774	5,050	4.5	4.9	3.8
Benton	16,182	15,681	15,235	881	964	660	5.2	5.8	4.2
Sherburne	19,887	19,271	18,723	1,245	1,283	934	5.9	6.2	4.8
Stearns	66,538	64,475	62,643	2,658	2,878	2,232	3.8	4.3	3.4
Wright	33,634	32,986	32,875	1,697	1,649	1,224	4.8	4.8	3.6

ST. CLOUD MSA NONFARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Industry	Employment			% Change From	
	Oct. 1990	Sep. 1990	Oct. 1989	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage & Salary	83,266	81,872	80,539	1.7	3.4
Goods Producing	19,858	19,876	19,336	-0.1	2.7
Construction & Mining	4,640	4,658	4,995	-0.4	-7.1
Manufacturing	15,218	15,218	14,341	0.0	6.1
Durable Goods	8,856	8,918	8,122	-0.7	9.0
Nondurable Goods	6,362	6,300	6,219	1.0	2.3
Service Producing	63,408	61,996	61,203	2.3	3.6
Transp, Comm., & Util.	3,858	3,870	3,847	-0.3	0.3
Trade	26,236	26,170	24,497	0.3	7.1
Wholesale	4,024	4,059	3,659	-0.9	10.0
Retail	22,212	22,111	20,838	0.5	6.6
Finan., Insur., & Real Estate	2,430	2,465	2,424	-1.4	0.2
Services	16,824	16,844	16,260	-0.1	3.5
Health	5,752	5,733	5,364	0.3	7.2
Other Services	11,072	11,111	10,896	-0.4	1.6
Government	14,060	12,647	14,175	11.2	-0.8

Unemployment Rates Rise Over the Year--And So Does Employment

Unemployment was more prevalent this October than a year ago across Central and Northwestern Minnesota. Over the month, unemployment trends were mixed. Employment, meanwhile, continued to rise over the year and month. In the St. Cloud MSA, employment again reached an all-time high at 102,608, 3,181 or 3.2% above September, and 6,007 or 6.2% above last October.

In the St. Cloud MSA, the unemployment rate dropped from 4.9% in September to 4.5% in October, but was above last October's 3.8%. This is the fourth consecutive month that the St. Cloud MSA's unemployment rate exceeded the year-ago level.

In October, the St.Cloud MSA employed more nonfarm payroll workers than it ever has--83,266. Last year there were 80,539 employed, and just five years ago, in October 1985, there were 64,848 (28.4% fewer). It shows that any economic slowdown has yet to stifle this area's ability to create jobs.

The 2,727 additional nonfarm payroll jobs over the year in the St. Cloud MSA were primarily attributable to retail trade (up 1,374), durable goods manufacturing (up 734), educational services (up 466), health services (up 388), and wholesale trade (up 365).

With some of St. Cloud's construction winding down or completed, there were about 350 fewer building jobs in the MSA than last October. Another 250 jobs were lost in local government.

October is usually the month with the highest employment. This year was no exception, with 1,394 more payroll jobs (up 1.7%) in the MSA than in September. Although retail trade generated 101 new jobs over the month, the biggest gainers were state and local government, up 487 and 919, respectively.

By Ron Daws

Northeast Minnesota

Unemployment Rates Change Little Over the Month and Year

Region 3's unemployment rate dropped slightly over the month, from 5.8% to 5.6%. Last October the region's rate was also 5.6%. Duluth's rate fell even further over the month, from 5.3% to 4.8%, but remained above last October's 4.6%. Nonetheless, 4.8% in October is quite low for Duluth. Total employment in Duluth and Region 3 increased both over the month and year.

Although the number of nonfarm payroll jobs in Duluth declined slightly over the month (from 50,355 to 49,995), they remained above last October's 49,697. Payroll jobs customarily peak in October, and the fact that they nearly did again this year is encouraging in the face of national warnings of an economic slowdown. Even manufacturing, which lost jobs since September, remained on par with October of last year.

Since September, construction jobs have thinned out--too early in the year to be seasonal. Construction jobs, at 1,719 this October, were considerably below last October's 1,930. They have, in fact, been running below year-ago levels for most of second-half 1990.

Transportation/communication/utilities and government each netted a modest number of jobs over the year, but it was health services that created the bulk of the new jobs. Although 242 health jobs were lost since September (down 4.0%), health services employed 196 more people (up 3.5%) than last October. Duluth's health services industry has been robust all year.

By Ron Daws

DULUTH & DULUTH-SUPERIOR MSA NONFARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT

Industry	DULUTH					DULUTH SUPERIOR				
	Employment			Percent Change		Employment			Percent Change	
	Oct. 1990	Sep. 1990	Oct. 1989	Month Ago	Year Ago	Oct. 1990	Sep. 1990	Oct. 1989	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage & Salary	49,995	50,355	49,697	-0.7	0.6	97,111	97,160	97,561	-0.1	-0.5
Goods Producing	5,938	6,161	6,143	-3.6	-3.3	17,534	17,907	18,327	-2.1	-4.3
Mining	Small, combined with construction					5,593	5,636	5,443	-0.8	2.8
Construction	1,720	1,804	1,931	-4.7	-10.9	3,442	3,504	4,366	-1.8	-21.2
Manufacturing	4,218	4,357	4,212	-3.2	0.1	8,499	8,767	8,518	-3.1	-0.2
Durable Goods	1,777	1,910	1,712	-7.0	3.8	4,525	4,770	4,420	-5.1	2.4
Nondurable Goods	2,441	2,447	2,500	-0.2	-2.4	3,974	3,997	4,098	-0.6	-3.0
Service Producing	44,057	44,194	43,554	-0.3	1.2	79,577	79,253	79,234	0.4	0.4
Transp., Comm., & Util.	3,327	3,340	3,273	-0.4	1.6	5,952	5,970	5,970	-0.3	-0.3
Trade	12,270	12,158	12,327	0.9	-0.5	24,632	24,488	24,648	0.6	-0.1
Wholesale	1,842	1,822	1,800	1.1	2.3	3,922	3,900	3,877	0.6	1.2
Retail	10,428	10,336	10,527	0.9	-0.9	20,710	20,588	20,771	0.6	-0.3
Finan., Insur., & Real Estate	1,860	1,871	1,925	-0.6	-3.4	3,240	3,240	3,260	0.0	-0.6
Service	14,402	14,783	13,981	-2.6	3.0	24,017	24,448	23,786	-1.8	1.0
Health	5,807	6,049	5,611	-4.0	3.5	9,406	9,676	9,277	-2.8	1.4
Other Services	8,595	8,734	8,370	-1.6	2.7	14,611	14,772	14,509	-1.1	0.7
Government	12,198	12,042	12,048	1.3	1.2	21,736	21,107	21,570	3.0	0.8

LABOR FORCE DATA

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	Oct. 1990	Sep. 1990	Oct. 1989	Oct. 1990	Sep. 1990	Oct. 1989	Oct. 1990	Sep. 1990	Oct. 1989
REGION 3	141,055	140,621	134,532	8,360	8,705	8,017	5.6	5.8	5.6
Aitkin	5,220	5,229	4,946	380	362	377	6.8	6.5	7.1
Carlton	12,556	12,169	11,734	832	778	699	6.2	6.0	5.6
Cook	2,811	3,072	2,675	155	105	173	5.2	3.3	6.1
Itasca	16,877	16,461	16,254	1,362	1,403	1,396	7.5	7.9	7.9
Koochiching	9,627	10,813	8,283	660	697	357	6.4	6.1	4.1
Lake	4,886	4,854	3,777	311	305	292	6.0	5.9	7.2
St. Louis	89,078	88,023	86,863	4,660	5,055	4,723	5.0	5.4	5.2
City of Duluth	38,672	38,214	37,711	1,966	2,125	1,805	4.8	5.3	4.6
Balance St. Louis	50,406	49,809	49,152	2,694	2,930	2,918	5.1	5.6	5.6

Southern Minnesota

LABOR FORCE DATA	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	Oct. 1990	Sep. 1990	Oct. 1989	Oct. 1990	Sep. 1990	Oct. 1989	Oct. 1990	Sep. 1990	Oct. 1989
REGION 6W	24,466	23,848	23,741	835	814	769	3.3	3.3	3.1
Big Stone	2,856	2,862	2,796	129	84	96	4.3	2.9	3.3
Chippewa	7,204	6,954	6,305	272	247	190	3.6	3.4	2.9
Lac Qui Parle	4,006	3,872	3,942	115	149	110	2.8	3.7	2.7
Swift	4,637	4,551	4,931	171	181	151	3.5	3.8	3.0
Yellow Medicine	5,713	5,609	5,767	148	153	222	2.5	2.7	3.7
REGION 8	61,790	60,502	59,897	2,156	2,654	2,263	3.4	4.2	3.6
Cottonwood	6,244	5,904	6,048	364	651	187	5.5	9.9	3.0
Jackson	5,590	5,402	5,364	228	275	195	3.9	4.8	3.5
Lincoln	3,193	3,142	3,168	115	102	141	3.5	3.1	4.3
Lyon	12,754	12,537	11,785	371	386	582	2.8	3.0	4.7
Murray	4,666	4,698	4,793	152	195	184	3.2	4.0	3.7
Nobles	12,320	12,102	11,362	374	378	259	2.9	3.0	2.2
Pipestone	4,866	4,855	5,251	237	305	344	4.6	5.9	6.1
Redwood	7,470	7,314	7,594	223	219	231	2.9	2.9	3.0
Rock	4,687	4,548	4,532	92	143	140	1.9	3.0	3.0
REGION 9	112,473	112,522	108,311	3,994	4,025	3,488	3.4	3.5	3.1
Blue Earth	28,983	27,736	28,335	675	862	733	2.3	3.0	2.5
Brown	13,909	14,042	13,529	426	382	391	3.0	2.6	2.8
Faribault	7,811	8,339	7,390	364	303	225	4.5	3.5	3.0
LeSueur	11,096	12,010	10,160	655	627	607	5.6	5.0	5.6
Martin	11,643	11,311	11,419	493	456	325	4.1	3.9	2.8
Nicollet	15,821	15,140	15,467	402	561	457	2.5	3.6	2.9
Sibley	7,228	7,723	6,798	325	279	262	4.3	3.5	3.7
Waseca	9,740	10,264	9,199	426	376	229	4.2	3.5	2.4
Watonwan	6,182	5,957	6,014	228	179	259	3.6	2.9	4.1
REGION 10	226,255	223,745	220,816	9,092	9,758	7,371	3.9	4.2	3.2
Dodge	8,569	8,436	8,241	443	400	324	4.9	4.5	3.8
Fillmore	9,602	9,454	9,760	348	334	384	3.5	3.4	3.8
Freeborn	15,179	14,915	16,556	1,688	1,714	677	10.0	10.3	3.9
Goodhue	21,924	21,622	20,816	881	951	693	3.9	4.2	3.2
Houston	10,174	9,847	9,479	207	273	261	2.0	2.7	2.7
Mower	18,400	17,962	16,606	659	732	516	3.5	3.9	3.0
Olmsted	63,046	62,555	61,950	1,773	2,158	1,808	2.7	3.3	2.8
Rice	28,335	27,997	26,736	1,030	1,019	1,136	3.5	3.5	2.8
Steele	16,563	16,632	15,597	597	722	377	3.5	3.5	4.1
Wabasha	8,424	8,539	8,940	424	382	376	4.8	4.3	4.0
Winona	26,039	25,786	26,135	1,042	1,073	819	3.8	4.0	3.0
Rochester City	39,224	38,919	38,542	1,281	1,579	1,319	3.2	3.9	3.3

ROCHESTER MSA NONFARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT

Industry	Employment			% Change From	
	Oct. 1990	Sep. 1990	Oct. 1989	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage & Salary	65,148	65,456	64,716	-0.5	0.7
Goods Producing	14,336	14,550	14,700	-1.5	-2.5
Construction & Mining	2,435	2,437	2,672	-0.1	-8.9
Manufacturing	11,901	12,113	12,037	-1.8	-1.1
Durable Goods	9,863	9,942	10,027	-0.8	-1.6
Nondurable Goods	2,038	2,171	2,010	-6.1	1.4
Service Producing	50,812	50,906	50,007	-0.2	1.6
Transp, Comm., & Util.	1,888	1,885	1,924	0.2	-1.9
Trade	12,829	12,721	12,589	0.8	1.9
Wholesale	1,396	1,387	1,367	0.6	2.1
Retail	11,433	11,334	11,222	0.9	1.9
Finan., Insur., & Real Estate	1,684	1,693	1,619	-0.5	4.0
Services	28,003	28,463	27,449	-1.6	2.0
Health	18,530	18,826	18,351	-1.6	1.0
Other Services	9,473	9,637	9,098	-1.7	4.1
Government	6,408	6,144	6,426	4.3	-0.3

Unemployment Rates Remain Low In Southern Minnesota

Unemployment rates remained near last October's and generally were lower than September's. Southern Minnesota's unemployment rates seem to have been left unscathed by what three out of four economists are calling a national recession.

Employment, conversely, keeps rising--both over the month and year. In the Rochester MSA (Olmsted County), it rose 1,096 (1.8%) over the year, and 491 (0.8%) since September. Employment customarily rises in October as the unemployment rate slips. This year was no exception with the Rochester MSA's rate dropping to 2.7% from September's 3.3%. Last October the rate in the MSA was 2.8%. Only in 1988 when the MSA's October unemployment rate was 2.4% has it been lower in October during the 1980s.

Although the Rochester MSA's nonfarm payroll employment dropped a little since September, is was higher than October 1989's. The 308 net over-the-month decrease mostly came from manufact-uring (down 212), health services (down 296), and nonmedical services (down 164).

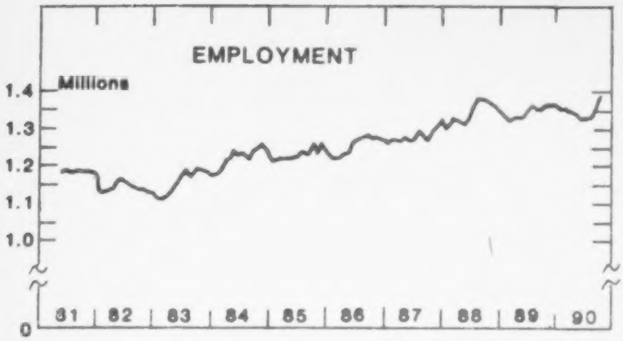
Obviously, some industries created jobs over the month. They were retail trade (up 99), and government (up 264).

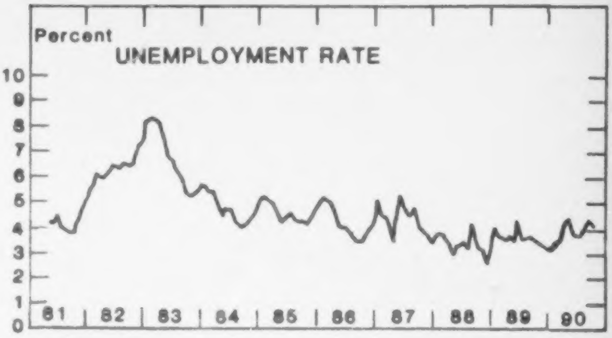
The 432 net job gain since October 1989 was mainly the result of 211 new retail trade jobs and 554 new service jobs canceling out losses in construction & mining (down 237) and durable goods (down 164).

By Ron Daws

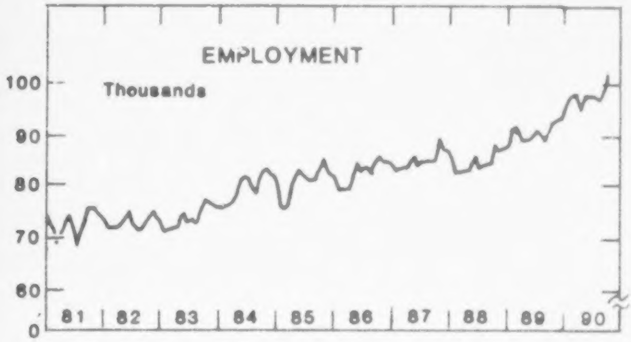
Employment and Unemployment Rates for MN Metro Areas

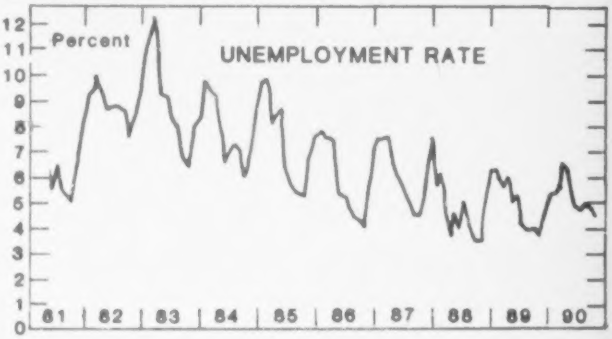
Minneapolis-St. Paul MSA



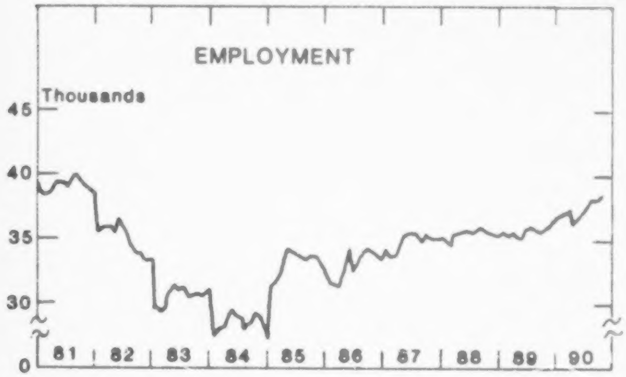


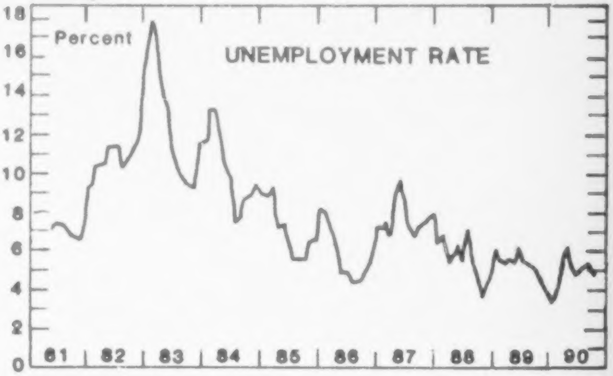
St. Cloud MSA



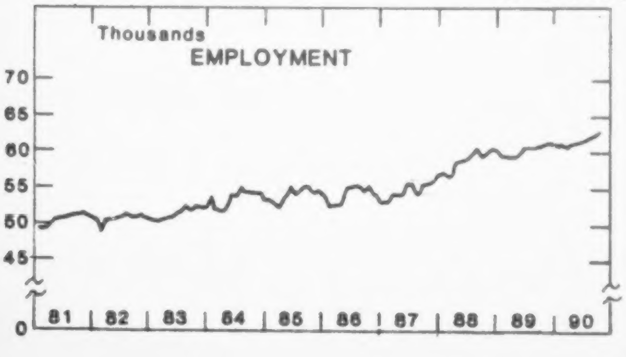


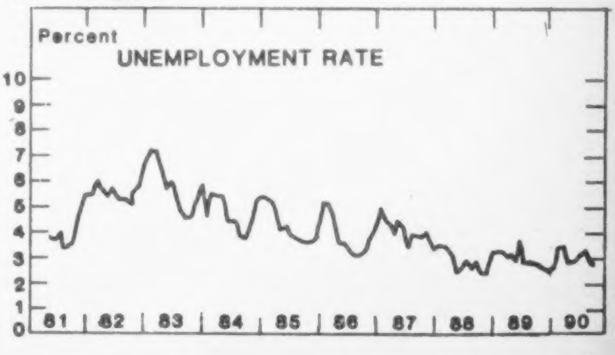
Duluth City





Rochester MSA



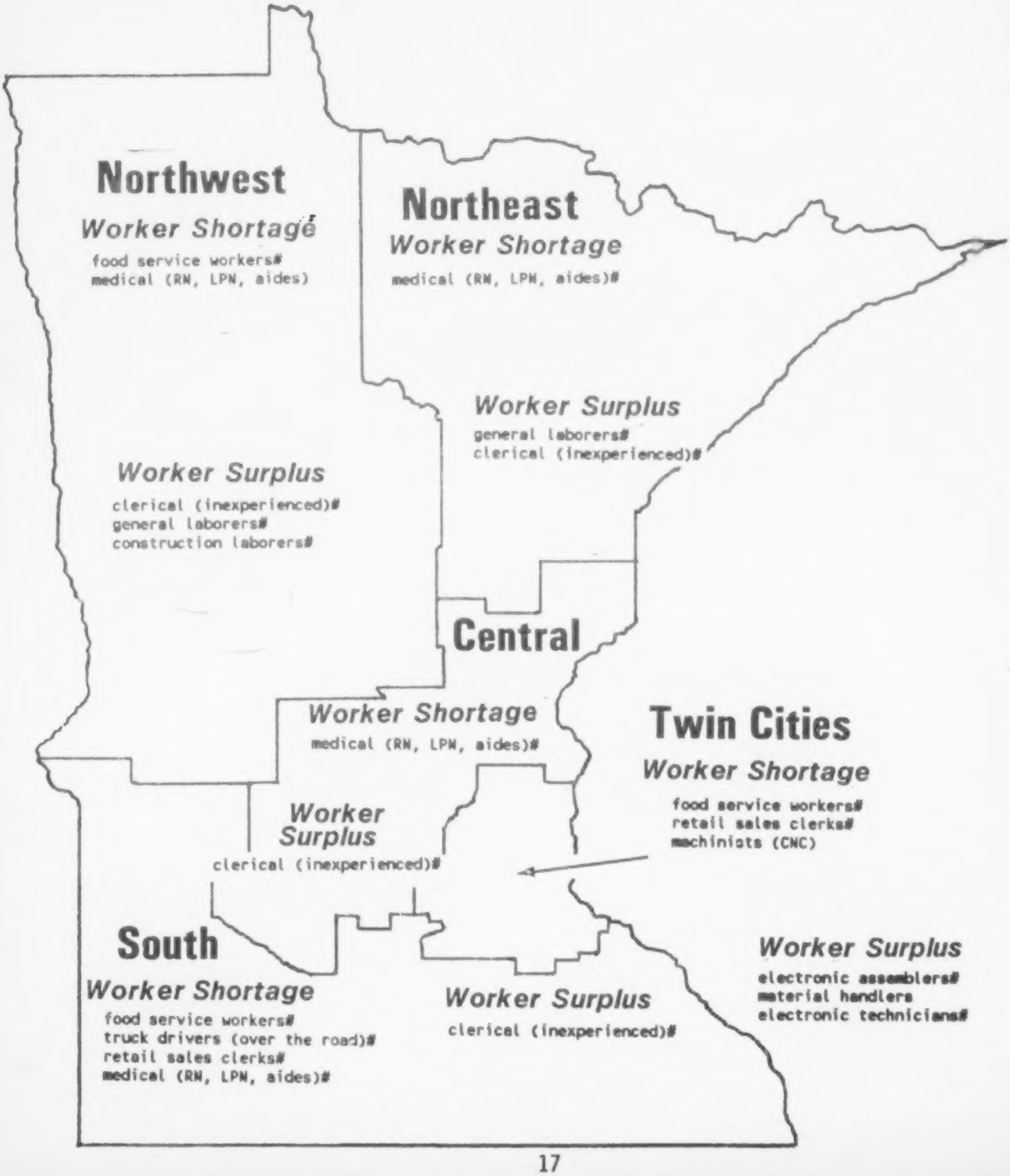


The Job Market

Regional Worker Job Shortages and Surplusses

Shortage occupations are difficult to fill or lack qualified applicants. A sizable excess of qualified applicants produces a worker surplus. A # after a job indicates that it has persisted for at least two of the last three quarters.

By Mike Casey


Northwest
Worker Shortage
food service workers#
medical (RN, LPN, aides)
Worker Surplus
clerical (inexperienced)#
general laborers#
construction laborers#
Northeast
Worker Shortage
medical (RN, LPN, aides)#
Worker Surplus
general laborers#
clerical (inexperienced)#
Central
Worker Shortage
medical (RN, LPN, aides)#
Worker Surplus
clerical (inexperienced)#
Twin Cities
Worker Shortage
food service workers#
retail sales clerks#
machinists (CNC)
Worker Surplus
electronic assemblers#
material handlers
electronic technicians#
South
Worker Shortage
food service workers#
truck drivers (over the road)#
retail sales clerks#
medical (RN, LPN, aides)#
Worker Surplus
clerical (inexperienced)#

OCCUPATIONAL TRENDS IN UNEMPLOYMENT

The Minnesota unemployment rate has varied greatly over the past decade as it tracked the surplusses and shortfalls in worker availability. For experienced workers, the rate was 4.2% in 1979. It jumped to 7.4% in 1983, and by 1988 fell to a decade low of 3.6% (Figure 1). Specific occupations have their own unemployment histories. By watching the trends of these occupational groups, the impact of a changing economy on the labor force can be seen.

Managerial unemployment peaked at 3.7% in 1983, while the jobless rate for laborers was 17.5%. By 1988, laborers' unemployment was still high at 8.5% compared to 2.4% for managerial workers. Whether this trend will continue into the 1990s remains to be seen. It appears that some groups' lowest unemployment rates were in the late 80s. For others, they may have been in 1979. So far in 1990, unemployment (for experienced and inexperienced workers together) in Minnesota has stayed low, fluctuating between 4.2% and 5.4%, with October's 4.2% slightly above October 1989's 3.8%.

To determine current trends in the labor market, a useful tool is ratios derived by dividing the number of Job Service applicants by the number of job openings listed with Job Service. Called supply/demand (S/D) ratios, they give an idea of how many applicants are competing for each job each month (Figure 2). The higher the ratio, the tighter the job market. Although they are based only on applicants and jobs listed with Job Service, they provide current information. S/D occupational categories differ from those used for unemployment rates.

With the exception of the professional/technical/managerial group, October S/D ratios haven't changed much between 1989 and 1990. This suggests there has been little change in these occupations' unemployment rates. One thing to consider, though, is that data from a new computer processing system was implemented in September 1990, and any inactive applicants were purged from the files. This overstates the monthly change for September, implying that the S/D ratios dropped dramatically then in some occupational groups when this didn't really happen. The number of job openings fell slightly overall since last October (24,279 to 23,527), but shot up greatly for processing, and somewhat for sales, benchwork, and structural work. The S/D ratio for professional/technical/managerial rose mostly because recent applicants were staying active longer, yet the number of openings also fell since last October (2,211 to 1,969).

Occupations are affected differently by fluctuating economic conditions. As of October, Minnesota was still experiencing relatively low unemployment, although other indicators may suggest a recession is on the way. How various types of occupations would fare in a recession is not totally clear. Some economists hold that unemployment would not increase as much as it did in the last recession. Tracking these and other information sources may shed light on future possibilities.

By Tom Nash and Sue Borgfelt

Outlook

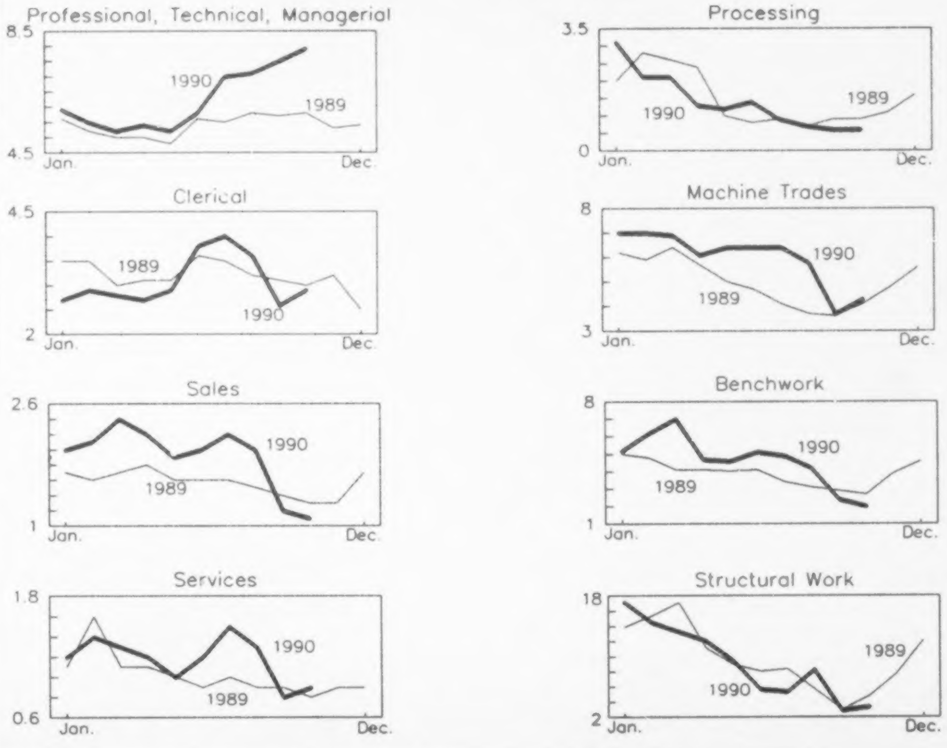
Figure 1: Minnesota Unemployment Rates by Occupation, 1979-1989*

	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Total All Occupations	4.2	5.2	5.0	6.9	7.4	5.7	5.3	4.8	5.0	3.6	3.9
Managerial	1.2	1.3	3.4	3.5	3.7	2.9	2.7	2.7	2.2	2.4	2.3
Professional/Technical	2.3	2.6	2.1	3.1							
Professional					2.6	2.1	2.2	1.2	2.1	1.6	0.9
Technicians					5.0	2.3	2.1	1.5	2.3	2.0	2.5
Sales	1.7	2.4	3.5	3.9	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.5
Clerical	2.1	4.3	3.9	5.4	5.9	3.8	4.6	4.6	4.3	3.2	3.7
Service	5.4	4.6	5.3	7.8	7.1	5.8	5.5	5.2	7.4	3.8	4.2
Craft/Repair	5.4	7.0	6.9	10.7	12.0	7.2	6.8	6.8	5.8	3.9	5.6
Machine Operators/Assemblers	5.9	12.9	9.2	16.3	15.0	11.2	11.7	9.0	6.5	6.4	7.6
Transportation/Material Moving	3.7	10.4	8.0	8.5	13.5	15.1	8.9	10.9	10.4	5.7	7.2
Laborers	9.5	14.5	13.8	16.6	17.5	13.5	8.8	10.5	11.9	8.5	7.3
Farming	1.3	2.4	1.6	1.8	6.2	5.4	6.6	2.6	2.8	2.9	3.1

* There is a break between 1982 and 1983 because of the switch from 1970 to 1980 Census occupational classifications. This affects all groups (except total), some more than others.

Source: Geographic Profile of Employment and Unemployment (1979 to 1989), U.S. Department of Labor.

Figure 2: Experienced Supply/Demand Ratios Monthly, 1989 and 1990



Source: Job Service data, Minnesota Department of Jobs and Training.

WORKER DISLOCATION: THE HUMAN COST OF CHANGE

When someone permanently loses his or her job, whether due to plant closing, merger, the sale of the corporation, or outdated skills, it is one of the toughest setbacks in life. Unfortunately, this is occurring with increasing frequency in many industries.

Many studies have analyzed the backgrounds of dislocated workers to find out what type of worker is typically affected by permanent loss of his or her job. The following is a summary of recent literature on worker dislocation, and the trends that may be in store for those who become displaced in today's uncertain job market.

The prevailing perception is that blue-collar workers are forced out of their jobs in economic downturns. College educated, white-collar professionals are supposed to almost never experience this type of upheaval in their careers. Trends in the past year or so have dispelled these notions.

Adam Seitchik and Jeffrey Zornitsky presented recent data and analysis of worker dislocation in their book *From One Job to the Next: Worker Adjustment in a Changing Labor Market* (Kalamazoo, MI, W.E. Upjohn Institute, 1989, 129 pp.). Their principal findings were presented in the September 1990 issue of the *Monthly Labor Review*:.

- Between 1981 and 1985, 10.8 million workers became dislocated in the United States. About half of them lost jobs in manufacturing, generally because of the shift in the American economy from goods producing industries to service industries.

- The ability of dislocated workers to get new jobs, and the wages they receive, depend on their skills and the industries from which they have been displaced. Once re-employed, full-time male workers earned between 15% and 20% less than other workers with similar characteristics (not surprising, since they lacked seniority). Of those re-employed by January 1986, 30% had been jobless for less than five weeks, although another 30% were jobless for more than 27 weeks. Two-thirds were successful in finding new jobs at comparable wages, and for those with at least three years' experience in their former job, half earned equivalent or higher wages in their new job (this was also substantiated in an article by Francis Horvath in the June 1987 issue of the *Monthly Labor Review).*

The problem for policy makers, according to Seitchik and Zornitsky, is whether training programs for dislocated workers should be designed to enable dislocated workers to seek comparable wage jobs (which may only be found in other declining industries), or to prepare them for jobs in growing industrial sectors such as services, where wages are usually lower. Their findings showed that only about half of all dislocated workers found jobs in similar occupations or industries. Many of the others were unwilling to accept a new job in a growing industry at a lower wage level. Thus, there is a mismatch between the need for workers in growing industries and the skills possessed by many dislocated workers. These workers simply are not interested in these lower wage jobs.

The authors also constructed a model for predicting one of three possible outcomes for dislocated workers: any new job; a new job in a growth sector; or a new job at a wage comparable to their old job. Their findings showed that the probability of the first and third outcomes increased with higher educational attainment. The probability of the second outcome was not statistically correlated with a higher educational level. Perhaps the most significant finding was that the third outcome, reemployment in a comparable wage job, was unlikely for less-educated dislocated workers.

From a policy perspective, it would follow that programs such as the 1988 Economic Displacement and Worker Adjustment Assistance Act (EDWAA) are most useful when they provide skill training to lower-income dislocated workers, as these people are more likely to be interested in employment in emerging industries (e.g., services) even though they don't pay as well as jobs in manufacturing.

Further supporting the contention that worker dislocation is not just a blue-collar problem is the November 5, 1990 *Newsweek* magazine discussion of current trends in layoffs. The article says that with a recession materializing throughout the country, white-collar professionals are no longer as immune to employment cutbacks as in previous economic downturns.

Many industries which hired large numbers of professionals during the prosperous 1980s are now having to cut staff. Professional employees, many with graduate degrees, are losing jobs in banking, financial services, real estate, advertising, marketing, publishing, and computer manufacturing and services firms. Profits are being squeezed, and mergers and consolidations among companies are making many positions redundant. Unlike many blue-collar workers, for whom seasonal layoffs are often expected, these mid- to upper level professional workers typically have not lost jobs or experienced pay cuts. The article cited data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics which showed that the percentage of the unemployed who were white-collar rose from 27% in 1983, to 33% by 1990, and to 37% by September 1990.

Major cities in the Northeast and the West Coast have the largest concentration of white-collar layoffs, but Midwestern business centers such as the Twin Cities will be more severely affected by downturns in professional employment if the current recession becomes more pervasive. This seems to be already occurring in Minnesota, as evidenced by computer firms and financial institutions restructuring and downsizing.

As more white-collar workers are laid off, and the competition for high- and mid-level professional jobs intensifies, the average spell of unemployment and job search will undoubtedly increase. In September 1990, laid-off worker remained unemployed an average of 12 weeks in Minnesota, almost a week longer than the average last year. Managers and professional workers are experiencing even longer periods of unemployment, often two or more weeks longer.

This shift toward job loss among the white-collared, and the finding that reemployment in a comparable wage job was unlikely for less-educated dislocated workers have implications for policy making. One of them is that lower-wage displaced workers are most likely to benefit from modest remediation and skills training. It would be more effective to match them to the lower-paying jobs emerging in growth industries.

Taxpayers, however, are unwilling to support the large investments needed to train higher-wage displaced workers for jobs at comparable wages. Unless workers are willing to bear (and can afford) the expenses of retraining, they face the very good prospect of a substantial loss of earnings.

By Kevin Alaspa

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Minnesota Labor Market Review

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF
Jobs and Training

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Available Publications

The Research and Statistics Office publishes many kinds of labor market information. Included is data on workers, their occupations and industries, labor force trends, demographics, wages and prices, characteristics of the hard to employ, and overall economic conditions. For many topics there are time series, projections and geographic comparisons.

The following publications were recently issued by the R &S Office and are being highlighted here. A brochure listing all our publications is avilable on request by calling (612) 296-6545.

Minnesota Employment 1990
Summarizes and analyzes state labor market information and issues in a concise, visually oriented display of charts, maps and text. No charge.

Minnesota Careers
A quick quide to 200 Minnesota careers. Designed for students and others making career plans. Graphically shows occupational size, salary, growth rate, yearly job openings and required training. Published annually.

A limited number of complementary copies will be distributed to schools, employment training programs, and libraries. A charge for other organizations or for additional quantities: $3.00 for a single copy or $35.00 for a box of 25.

Minnesota Economic Indicators
Provides information on seven state data series which follow the ups and downs of the business cycle. Published monthly. No charge.

54205-1

Minnesota Labor Market Review

January 1991

Nation

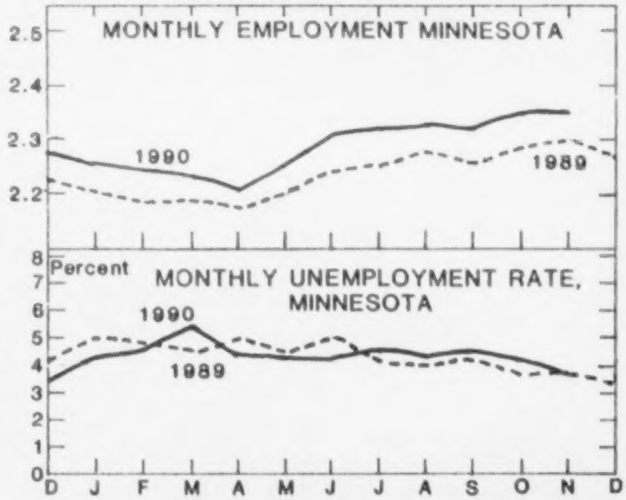
Fewer Jobs Sharply Raises the Unemployment Rate

The U.S. unemployment rate rose in November for the fourth time in five months, reaching a three-year high of 5.9%. It was 5.2% as recently as June. Fewer payroll jobs was the main reason behind this rise. It was the fifth straight month of decline. The 267,000 loss was the largest thus far. The job losses were not only deep, but broad. There were fewer jobs in manufacturing, construction, transportation/utilities, trade, and financial/business services. The only industries adding workers were health services and local government. This belies the popular wisdom that this recession is a white-collar domain. There have been more of these workers on layoff than during the last downturn, but mainly because there are far more of them working than 10 years ago.

Over the past year, the unemployment rates for professionals, managers and service workers have not gone up. Sales workers join the ranks of the blue-collared in experiencing rising unemployment rates throughout 1990.

The unemployment rate, while rising fast, is still relatively low, thanks to a slower-growing labor force. The labor force participation rate is off half a percentage point from the 66.0% reached in June, mainly because many teens have stopped looking for work in a sluggish economy. Moreover, the teen population is much smaller than at the start of the 1980s, when their mass entry into the work world helped foster high unemployment.

Labor Force Estimates



	Minnesota (In Thousands) Nov 90	Oct 90	Nov 89	United States (In Thousands) Nov 90	Oct 90	Nov 89
Labor Force	2445.7	2461.5	2384.0	124,821	125,020	124,664
Employment	2353.8	2357.2	2293.6	117,611	118,299	118,168
Unemployment	918.9	104.3	90.4	7,211	6,722	6,495
Act. Unemp. Rt.	3.8	4.2	3.8	5.8	5.4	5.2
S.A. Unemp. Rt.	-	-	-	5.9	5.7	5.3

State

Unemployment Rate Remains Low With More New Jobs In The Service Sector

The Minnesota unemployment rate declined to 3.8% in November. It was the most substantial October to November drop in the last ten years, and places the state unemployment rate a full two percentage points under the comparable U.S. figure. While higher than the 3.6% of November 1989, the failure of Minnesota's rate to rise sharply in concert with the nation's suggests a relatively stronger economy -- at least through last fall.

The number of payroll jobs dropped in November, but the decline was seasonal, as some activities started to wind down for winter. Construction showed a greater than usual drop, but for unknown reasons as November 1990 was not a particularly harsh month weatherwise. Construction has been weak throughout 1990, with 2,400 fewer jobs than a year ago. Likewise, manufacturing declined more than usual in November, and has 3,400 fewer workers than the same month in 1989. Increases in trade and financial service employment more than make up for these losses, but the big growth over the past year has been in services, with 15,000 more jobs and public education, with nearly 7,000 more. Unlike the nation, gains in these two sectors have helped keep the overall unemployment rate from rising. Like the nation, a slower growing labor force has meant less unemployment than a decade ago.

By Don Hilber

Minnesota Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment, Hours & Earnings

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT 1/ (thousands)			PERCENT CHANGE FROM		PRODUCTION WORKERS' HOURS & EARNINGS 2/					
						Average Weekly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings	
	Nov. 1990	Oct. 1990	Nov. 1989	Oct. 1990	Nov. 1989	Nov. 1990	Nov. 1989	Nov. 1990	Nov. 1989	Nov. 1990	Nov. 1989
Total Nonfarm Wage & Salary	2,159.7	2,165.2	2,132.3	-0.3	1.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goods Producing	483.8	494.2	489.7	-2.1	-1.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mining	8.3	8.6	7.5	-2.8	10.4	630.28	537.38	42.5	38.8	14.83	13.85
Metal Mining	6.4	6.5	5.7	-1.8	13.4	659.02	548.26	42.6	38.1	15.47	14.39
Construction	82.1	88.4	84.5	-7.1	-2.8	662.99	623.20	39.3	38.0	16.87	16.40
Manufacturing	393.4	397.3	397.7	-1.0	-1.1	461.62	451.47	40.6	40.6	11.37	11.12
Durable Goods	227.4	229.7	233.1	-1.0	-2.5	470.02	466.90	40.8	41.1	11.52	11.36
Lumber and Furniture	22.7	23.0	22.1	-1.1	3.0	485.25	499.68	37.5	39.5	12.94	11.65
Stone, Clay and Glass	8.9	9.3	9.3	-4.8	-4.0	504.06	450.54	41.9	39.8	12.03	11.32
Primary Metals	6.3	6.4	6.4	-1.3	-2.3	494.91	440.35	42.3	39.6	11.70	11.12
Fabricated Metals	34.0	34.3	35.2	-1.0	-3.5	482.45	483.30	41.2	41.7	11.71	11.59
Industrial Machinery	77.6	78.5	83.3	-1.1	-6.8	499.73	488.11	41.3	41.4	12.10	11.79
Office and Computing	34.1	34.4	38.0	-0.9	-10.2	537.80	497.35	44.3	41.9	12.14	11.87
Electronic Equipment	28.2	28.4	27.1	-0.7	4.2	400.61	418.77	41.3	42.3	9.70	9.90
Transportation Equipment	11.7	11.8	11.6	-0.5	1.2	452.00	475.54	39.1	40.3	11.56	11.80
Instruments and Related	32.1	32.2	32.4	-0.1	-0.9	452.63	435.96	42.5	42.0	10.65	10.38
Misc. Manufacturing	5.8	5.9	5.7	-1.3	1.8	409.42	420.04	37.7	38.5	10.86	10.91
Nondurable Goods	166.0	167.6	164.5	-0.9	0.9	452.08	432.12	40.4	39.9	11.19	10.83
Food & Beverage Products	46.6	48.0	47.4	-2.8	-1.7	409.86	401.72	41.4	41.3	9.90	9.71
Textiles & Apparel	4.6	4.7	5.1	-2.8	-9.0	304.56	296.43	37.6	37.1	8.10	7.99
Paper Products	33.7	33.8	33.4	-0.1	1.2	593.78	544.48	43.5	41.5	13.65	13.12
Printing and Publishing	53.1	52.8	50.5	0.5	5.2	435.85	422.60	38.3	37.8	11.38	11.18
Chemicals and Petroleum	11.7	11.8	11.6	-0.6	0.8	560.35	516.84	41.6	40.6	13.47	12.73
Rubber, Plastic & Leather	16.3	16.5	16.6	-1.2	-2.0	386.71	378.00	39.3	40.0	9.84	9.45
Service Producing	1,675.9	1,671.0	1,642.6	0.3	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transp., Comm., & Util.	109.7	110.3	108.2	-0.6	1.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	75.4	75.9	73.3	-0.6	2.9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trucking & Warehousing	28.4	28.4	28.4	-0.2	-0.3	439.04	427.61	34.9	34.1	12.58	12.54
Communication & Utilities	34.2	34.4	35.0	-0.5	-2.1	614.51	588.28	38.6	38.2	15.92	15.40
Trade	530.8	528.6	526.9	0.4	0.7	240.61	233.28	29.2	28.8	8.24	8.10
Wholesale	130.1	130.5	128.2	-0.4	1.4	415.47	410.70	36.8	37.1	11.29	11.07
Retail	400.7	398.0	398.6	0.7	0.5	189.11	182.42	26.9	26.4	7.03	6.91
Building Materials	18.3	18.6	18.6	-1.4	-1.5	321.20	344.25	36.5	37.5	8.60	9.18
General Merchandise	62.5	60.0	63.8	4.2	-2.0	184.32	177.80	25.6	25.4	7.20	7.00
Food Stores	56.3	55.7	54.1	1.1	4.1	201.96	196.70	27.0	27.9	7.48	7.05
Automotive	43.8	44.0	43.0	-0.4	2.0	297.73	292.22	34.7	34.5	8.58	8.47
Apparel	20.8	20.1	20.7	3.3	0.6	126.14	121.20	21.6	21.3	5.84	5.69
Home Furnishings	16.6	16.5	16.9	0.5	-1.5	283.30	256.10	31.2	30.2	9.08	8.48
Eating and Drinking	130.3	131.8	129.5	-1.1	0.6	119.94	112.27	23.2	21.8	5.17	5.15
Fin., Insur., Real Estate	123.6	123.7	120.9	-0.0	2.3						
Finance	56.1	56.1	55.3	0.1	1.5						
Insurance	46.7	46.6	45.2	0.2	3.3						
Real Estate	20.8	21.0	20.3	-1.0	2.2						
Services	563.2	564.9	547.8	-0.3	2.8						
Personal Services	25.7	25.9	25.5	-0.6	0.9						
Business Services	99.7	99.4	97.6	0.2	2.1						
Repair Services	23.3	23.5	22.7	-0.9	2.5						
Health Services	167.7	167.1	162.9	0.4	2.9						
Nursing Homes	43.8	43.7	43.1	0.4	1.7						
Hospitals	55.9	55.7	55.0	0.3	1.5						
Legal Services	15.9	16.0	15.6	-0.6	2.1						
Private Education	33.7	33.0	33.6	2.3	0.5						
Government	348.6	343.6	338.8	1.5	2.9						
Federal	34.2	34.1	34.7	0.1	-1.5						
State	87.3	85.7	85.0	0.8	2.7						
Education	50.7	49.5	48.8	2.5	3.9						
Local	227.1	222.8	219.1	1.9	3.6						
Education	123.6	120.1	118.7	2.9	4.1						

Note: Not all industry sub-groups are shown for every major industry category.

1/ Totals may not add because of rounding.

2/ Average earnings data are on a "gross" basis and are derived from reports of payroll for full-time and part-time production or non-supervisory workers. The payroll is reported before deductions of any kind. Bonuses, retroactive pay, tips, payment in kind, and "fringe benefits" are excluded.

Minneapolis–St. Paul MSA

Unemployment Rate Drops Sharply

The unemployment rate in the Minneapolis - St. Paul metropolitan area dropped sharply to 3.3% in November. The 0.8 of a percentage point decrease from October was greater than the usual decrease of 0.2 of a point. The number of unemployed workers also decreased sharply. Nevertheless, many of the jobless did not find work and dropped out of the labor force. While the drop in the unemployment rate appears to be encouraging, it is the result of a labor market that is tightening to the point of discouraging potential workers.

The monthly survey of establishments showed further evidence of struggling labor market conditions. After adjusting for seasonal factors, there was a substantial drop in the number of nonfarm jobs. Despite talk that this is a "white-collar" recession, construction and manufacturing workers are bearing the brunt of the layoffs. There were 2.8% fewer construction jobs in the Twin Cities than a year ago, while there were 1.7% fewer manufacturing jobs. Still, this is better than nationwide where construction and manufacturing job levels fell 4.2% and 2.9% respectively over the year.

Retailers did not expand their holiday payrolls as rapidly as in past years. In fact, in November, next to construction and manufacturing, the retail sector was weakest in terms of over-the-year job growth, increasing by only 0.3%. Several retail groups, hardware and department stores, have fewer jobs than a year ago. Locally, job growth has held up better than the national average in the financial services industry (1.8% vs 0.9%) and government (3.8% vs 2.5%). Still, the service sector grows somewhat slower locally than nationally (2.6% vs 3.6%).

By Bruce Steuernagel

LABOR FORCE DATA

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	Nov. 1990	Oct. 1990	Nov. 1989	Nov. 1990	Oct. 1990	Nov. 1989	Nov. 1990	Oct. 1990	Nov. 1989
Mpls-St. Paul	**1,404,549**	**1,400,410**	**1,382,860**	**47,483**	59,661	**44,596**	3.3	4.1	3.1
REGION 11	**1,318,767**	**1,314,812**	**1,297,865**	**43,617**	55,299	**40,802**	3.2	4.0	3.0
Anoka	135,629	135,222	133,479	5,122	6,500	4,503	3.6	4.6	3.3
Carver	25,272	25,196	24,871	757	981	778	2.9	3.7	3.0
Dakota	148,527	148,081	146,173	4,701	5,933	4,307	3.1	3.9	2.9
Hennepin	623,986	622,115	614,096	20,282	26,104	18,571	3.1	4.0	2.9
Ramsey	279,038	278,201	274,615	8,974	11,472	8,749	3.1	4.0	3.1
Scott	29,879	29,790	29,406	1,149	1,176	1,314	3.7	3.8	4.3
Washington	76,436	76,207	75,225	2,632	3,133	2,580	3.3	3.9	3.3
Chisago	14,581	14,537	14,350	822	880	782	5.3	5.7	5.2
Isanti	12,346	12,309	12,151	585	675	563	4.5	5.2	4.4
Wright	33,769	33,668	33,234	1,594	1,697	1,342	4.5	4.8	3.9
St. Croix, WI	25,087	25,083	25,261	866	1,108	1,106	3.3	4.2	4.2
Bloomington	58,499	58,323	57,572	1,897	2,348	1,657	3.1	3.9	2.8
Minneapolis	205,778	205,161	202,517	7,141	9,693	6,862	3.4	4.5	3.3
St. Paul	143,872	143,440	141,592	5,552	7,042	5,307	3.7	4.7	3.6

Mpls.-St. Paul Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment, Hours & Earnings

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT 1/ (thousands)			PERCENT CHANGE FROM		PRODUCTION WORKERS' HOURS & EARNINGS 2/					
						Average Weekly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings	
	Nov. 1990	Oct. 1990	Nov. 1989	Oct. 1990	Nov. 1989	Nov. 1990	Nov. 1989	Nov. 1990	Nov. 1989	Nov. 1990	Nov. 1989
Total Nonfarm Wage & Salary	1,395.0	1,396.1	1,378.8	-0.1	1.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goods Producing	311.4	315.7	317.6	-1.4	-2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mining	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.8	-18.7	766.82	693.98	46.0	44.6	16.67	15.56
Construction	52.9	55.7	54.5	-5.1	-2.8	719.26	658.15	38.9	37.1	18.49	17.74
Manufacturing	258.0	259.5	262.5	-0.6	-1.7	487.61	474.91	40.6	40.8	12.01	11.64
Durable Goods	154.0	155.2	160.1	-0.8	-3.8	494.10	486.45	40.6	41.4	12.17	11.75
Lumber and Furniture	9.1	9.2	8.9	-1.6	2.1	545.08	570.24	37.8	40.5	14.42	14.08
Stone, Clay and Glass	3.3	3.3	3.3	-0.2	-0.9	531.07	471.18	41.2	39.2	12.89	12.02
Primary Metals	4.5	4.6	4.6	-1.9	-2.9	504.70	409.73	43.1	38.8	11.71	10.56
Fabricated Metals	25.6	25.7	26.7	-0.4	-3.9	503.84	490.95	41.4	41.5	12.17	11.83
Industrial Machinery	54.9	55.5	60.2	-1.2	-8.9	522.10	526.49	40.1	42.7	13.02	12.33
Office and Computing	22.5	22.7	26.5	-0.9	-15.0	584.26	607.19	40.8	47.4	14.32	12.81
Electronic Equipment	18.0	18.1	17.7	-0.7	1.4	392.00	388.28	39.2	39.3	10.00	9.88
Transportation Equipment	5.6	5.6	5.6	-1.3	-1.2	608.73	626.76	39.4	40.1	15.45	15.63
Instruments and Related	29.3	29.3	29.4	-0.1	-0.3	474.53	458.80	43.1	42.6	11.01	10.77
Misc. Manufacturing	3.9	3.9	3.7	-0.2	4.1	473.02	462.95	38.9	39.4	12.16	11.75
Nondurable Goods	104.0	104.2	102.5	-0.2	1.5	478.27	459.60	40.6	40.0	11.78	11.49
Food & Beverage Products	17.0	17.4	17.1	-1.8	-0.3	509.95	498.10	43.4	43.2	11.75	11.53
Paper Products	25.9	25.9	25.7	0.1	0.7	525.85	480.40	41.9	39.9	12.55	12.04
Printing and Publishing	37.9	37.6	36.1	0.8	5.0	438.54	438.52	38.3	38.0	11.45	11.54
Chemicals and Petroleum	10.1	10.2	9.7	-0.7	4.0	625.83	577.53	43.4	40.5	14.42	14.26
Rubber and Plastic	11.2	11.3	11.4	-0.7	-1.8	405.27	398.26	39.5	41.1	10.26	9.69
Service Producing	1,083.6	1,080.5	1,061.2	0.3	2.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transp., Comm., & Util.	78.3	78.7	76.4	-0.6	2.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	56.7	57.1	54.4	-0.6	4.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trucking & Warehousing	18.1	18.1	18.0	-0.1	0.4	413.11	392.39	31.9	30.8	12.95	12.74
Communication & Utilities	21.5	21.6	22.0	-0.4	-2.3	586.81	571.15	37.4	37.9	15.69	15.07
Trade	340.2	338.1	338.2	0.6	0.6	274.82	260.46	30.3	29.2	9.07	8.92
Wholesale	88.4	88.6	87.1	-0.3	1.6	463.88	448.54	37.2	37.1	12.47	12.09
Retail	251.8	249.4	251.1	0.9	0.3	216.58	203.14	28.2	26.8	7.68	7.58
Building Materials	10.3	10.5	10.9	-1.2	-4.8	390.89	413.02	36.6	38.6	10.68	10.70
General Merchandise	44.3	42.8	45.3	3.4	-2.3	203.58	193.47	26.0	25.9	7.83	7.47
Food Stores	30.4	29.8	29.4	1.9	3.2	265.39	255.20	29.1	29.3	9.12	8.71
Automotive	25.5	25.6	25.3	-0.5	0.6	348.13	328.84	36.8	35.9	9.46	9.16
Apparel	14.4	13.7	13.9	4.8	3.1	125.24	114.40	20.7	20.0	6.05	5.72
Home Furnishings	11.8	11.8	12.2	0.4	-3.0	333.84	270.56	32.1	28.6	10.40	9.46
Eating and Drinking	82.5	83.3	81.7	-0.9	1.0	140.80	127.80	25.6	22.5	5.50	5.68
Fin., Insur., Real Estate	95.1	95.1	93.4	-0.0	1.8						
Finance	40.5	40.4	40.0	0.2	1.3						
Insurance	37.8	37.7	36.9	0.2	2.5						
Real Estate	16.8	16.9	16.5	-0.9	1.7						
Services	377.2	378.6	367.5	-0.4	2.6						
Personal Services	18.4	18.5	18.3	-0.7	0.4						
Business Services	84.2	84.1	83.3	0.1	1.1						
Repair Services	17.5	17.6	17.2	-0.9	1.8						
Health Services	95.6	95.5	91.7	0.1	4.2						
Nursing Homes	23.2	23.2	22.6	0.0	2.4						
Hospitals	33.3	33.4	32.4	-0.1	3.1						
Legal Services	12.8	12.8	12.5	-0.2	2.5						
Private Education	17.1	17.1	17.5	-0.2	-2.7						
Government	192.9	190.0	185.8	1.5	3.8						
Federal	20.8	20.7	20.8	0.2	-0.2						
State	56.4	55.8	54.8	1.1	3.0						
Education	32.7	32.0	31.4	2.2	4.2						
Local	115.7	113.4	110.2	2.0	5.0						
Education	64.5	62.7	61.4	2.8	5.0						

Note: Not all industry sub-groups are shown for every major industry category.

1/ Totals may not add because of rounding.

2/ Average earnings data are on a "gross" basis and are derived from reports of payroll for full-time and part-time production or non-supervisory workers. The payroll is reported before deductions of any kind. Bonuses, retroactive pay, tips, payment in kind, and "fringe benefits" are excluded.

Central and Northwest Minnesota

LABOR FORCE DATA	Employment			Unemployment			Uemp. Rate		
	Nov. 1990	Oct. 1990	Nov. 1989	Nov. 1990	Oct. 1990	Nov. 1989	Nov. 1990	Oct. 1990	Nov. 1989
St. Cloud	102,546	102,402	96,724	4,399	4,780	5,107	4.1	4.5	5.0
REGION 1	42,070	43,103	40,133	2,381	2,312	2,098	5.4	5.1	5.0
Kittson	2,384	2,426	2,254	155	120	140	6.1	4.7	5.8
Marshall	4,430	4,594	4,329	455	369	374	9.3	7.4	8.0
Norman	3,393	3,489	3,376	168	155	166	4.7	4.3	4.7
Pennington	7,035	6,955	6,669	407	374	286	5.5	5.1	4.1
Polk	14,206	14,926	13,610	725	826	734	4.9	5.2	5.1
Red Lake	1,481	1,524	1,365	159	159	152	9.7	9.4	10.0
Roseau	9,141	9,189	8,530	312	309	246	3.3	3.3	2.8
REGION 2	30,677	31,592	29,204	1,892	1,987	1,794	5.8	5.9	5.8
Beltrami	16,935	17,140	15,871	833	872	756	4.7	4.8	4.5
Clearwater	3,032	3,149	3,072	374	283	367	11.0	8.2	10.7
Hubbard	6,524	7,064	6,170	476	599	425	6.8	7.8	6.4
Lake of Woods	1,888	1,945	1,836	56	90	79	2.9	4.4	4.1
Mahnomen	2,298	2,294	2,255	153	143	167	6.2	5.9	6.9
REGION 4	98,130	98,943	93,334	4,318	3,961	4,191	4.2	3.8	4.2
Becker	13,465	13,697	12,990	780	803	683	5.5	5.5	5.0
Clay	26,309	26,195	25,318	814	685	668	3.0	2.5	2.6
Douglas	15,293	15,342	15,332	649	675	823	4.1	4.2	5.1
Grant	2,888	2,977	2,753	146	136	141	4.8	4.4	4.9
Otter Tail	25,015	25,435	23,983	1,317	1,143	1,237	5.0	4.3	4.9
Pope	4,630	4,628	4,450	244	226	229	5.0	4.7	4.9
Stevens	5,228	5,270	5,220	168	106	220	3.1	2.0	4.0
Traverse	2,015	2,120	1,950	83	85	81	4.0	3.9	4.0
Wilkin	3,287	3,279	3,338	117	102	109	3.4	3.0	3.2
REGION 5	58,317	59,528	58,155	4,466	4,272	4,446	7.1	6.7	7.1
Cass	8,033	8,516	7,634	762	722	714	8.7	7.8	8.6
Crow Wing	21,404	21,788	21,660	1,290	1,194	1,227	5.7	5.2	5.4
Morrison	13,572	13,771	13,879	1,391	1,192	1,378	9.3	8.0	9.0
Todd	10,670	10,790	10,174	660	811	822	5.8	7.0	7.5
Wadena	4,638	4,663	4,808	363	355	305	7.3	7.1	6.0
REGION 6E	54,396	55,518	52,909	2,435	2,354	2,204	4.3	4.1	4.0
Kandiyohi	20,500	20,333	19,059	[illegible]	690	700	3.6	3.3	3.4
McLeod	16,699	17,384	16,379	690	773	635	4.0	4.3	3.7
Meeker	8,693	8,808	8,296	610	547	476	6.6	5.8	5.4
Renville	8,504	8,993	8,575	372	344	393	4.2	3.7	4.4
REGION 7E	51,635	52,259	51,088	3,110	3,238	3,000	5.7	5.8	5.5
Chisago	14,581	14,537	14,350	822	880	782	5.3	5.7	5.2
Isanti	12,346	12,309	12,151	585	675	563	4.5	5.2	4.4
Kanabec	5,244	5,461	5,772	472	475	465	8.3	8.0	7.5
Mille Lacs	9,809	9,943	9,547	512	493	513	5.0	4.7	5.1
Pine	9,655	10,009	9,268	719	715	677	6.9	6.7	6.8
REGION 7W	136,315	136,071	129,958	5,992	6,477	6,449	4.2	4.5	4.7
Benton	16,173	16,150	15,254	804	881	911	4.7	5.2	5.6
Sherburne	19,875	19,648	18,747	1,173	1,246	1,239	5.6	5.9	6.2
Stearns	66,498	66,405	62,723	2,421	2,653	2,957	3.5	3.8	4.5
Wright	33,769	33,668	33,234	1,594	1,697	1,342	4.5	4.8	3.9

ST. CLOUD MSA NONFARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	Employment			% Change From	
Industry	Nov. 1990	Oct. 1990	Nov. 1989	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	83,137	82,975	79,501	0.2	4.6
Goods Producing	19,727	19,894	18,014	-0.8	9.5
Construction and Mining	4,636	4,640	4,413	-0.1	5.1
Manufacturing	15,091	15,254	13,601	-1.1	11.0
Durable Goods	8,751	8,889	7,324	-1.6	19.5
Nondurable Goods	6,340	6,365	6,277	-0.4	1.0
Service Producing	63,410	63,081	61,487	0.5	3.1
Transp., Comm., & Util.	3,818	3,859	3,905	-1.1	-2.2
Trade	26,372	26,217	24,867	0.6	6.1
Wholesale	3,957	4,005	3,663	-1.2	8.0
Retail	22,415	22,212	21,204	0.9	5.7
Finan., Insur., & Re. Estate	2,463	2,430	2,424	1.4	1.6
Services	16,830	16,823	16,301	0.4	3.2
Health	5,788	5,751	5,412	0.6	6.9
Other Services	11,102	11,072	10,889	0.3	2.0
Government	13,867	13,752	13,990	0.8	-0.9

November's Unemployment Rates Hover Near Those Of Last Year And October's

Unemployment rates rose in some regions and dropped in others over the month and year. In the St. Cloud MSA, the economy performed especially well with November's rate sinking to 4.1% from October's 4.5% and last November's 5.0%. Except for November 1988's 3.6%, the St. Cloud MSA's unemployment rate for this month has not been lower during the 1980s. During the past four months the MSA's unemployment rate had been higher in 1990 than during comparable months in 1989.

Employment across the regions, although generally dropping seasonally from October, was higher this November than last November. In the MSA's strong economy, employment rose over the month, from 102,402 in October and 96,724 from last November to 102,546 this November. That was 5,822 or 6.0% more MSA residents working this November than the year before.

Clearly, the area demonstrates that it can create jobs in the midst of outside recessionary pressures.

Nonfarm payroll jobs in the MSA rose to 83,137 from 82,975 in October and from 79,501 last November. Over the year, durable goods manufacturing performed exceptionally well, rising 19.5%. It caused goods-producing jobs to grow three times as fast as services-producing jobs--unheard of in most economies.

Spearheading the job increase among service producers over the year were trade--up 6.1%, and educational services--up 25.5%. The rise in education jobs mostly reflects an adjustment to correct for an underested level rather than a real increase in jobs. Never-the-less, nearly every major service industry in the St. Cloud MSA added jobs over the year.

Since October, the net number of MSA payroll jobs remained essentially unchanged. Among major industries, there was very little job fluctuation, with most changes being confined to one percent.

By Ron Daws

Northeast Minnesota

Region 3's Unemployment Rate Drops In November To Near Last November's Rate

Region 3's unemployment rate dropped from 5.6% in October to 5.2% in November. That was slightly below last November's 5.3%. Duluth's rate, in dropping from 4.8% in October to 3.9% in November, didn't quite reach the exceptionally low 3.3% it was last November. Still, except for last November's rate and November 1988's 3.6%, it was lower than any November unemployment rate of the 1980s. As such, there's no clear sign that the area is tumbling into recession--although it should be mentioned that over the past four months, Duluth's unemployment rates have modestly surpassed those of 1989.

Employment dropped slightly over the month in Region 3, by 308 or 0.2%, as approaching winter began to affect seasonal industries. Nevertheless, there were 5,592 or 4.1% more jobs this November than last November. Job creation was even stronger in Duluth with employment at 38,861 this November up from 38,293 last November (568 more jobs) and up from 38,662 in October (369 more jobs).

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Duluth also rose over the month and year. Trends varied among industries with construction down over the month and year, retail trade beginning to gear up for Christmas, health services continuing to grow during 1990, and government also continuing to rise. Manufacturing, although not growing dramatically, kept pace with the service producers who, in most economies, are generating jobs fastest.

By Ron Daws

LABOR FORCE DATA

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	Nov. 1990	Oct. 1990	Nov. 1989	Nov. 1990	Oct. 1990	Nov. 1989	Nov. 1990	Oct. 1990	Nov. 1989
REGION 3	140,783	141,091	135,191	7,651	8,371	7,523	5.2	5.6	5.3
Aitkin	5,001	5,173	4,802	422	380	466	7.8	6.8	8.8
Carlton	12,735	12,768	11,667	684	837	649	5.1	6.2	5.3
Cook	2,418	2,754	2,355	148	154	141	5.8	5.3	5.6
Itasca	17,210	17,167	16,165	1,253	1,367	1,255	6.8	7.4	7.2
Koochiching	9,544	9,863	8,233	601	666	340	5.9	6.3	4.0
Lake	4,362	4,312	3,765	300	302	262	6.4	6.5	6.5
St. Louis	89,513	89,054	88,204	4,243	4,665	4,410	4.5	5.0	4.8
City of Duluth	38,861	38,662	38,293	1,571	1,967	1,290	3.9	4.8	3.3
Balance St. Louis	50,652	50,392	49,911	2,672	2,698	3,120	5.0	5.1	5.9

DULUTH & DULUTH-SUPERIOR MSA NONFARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT

Industry	DULUTH					DULUTH SUPERIOR				
	Employment			% Change From		Employment			% Change From	
	Nov. 1990	Oct. 1990	Nov 1989	Month Ago	Year Ago	Nov. 1990	Oct. 1990	Nov. 1989	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	50,566	50,132	49,989	0.9	1.2	97,328	96,920	97,326	0.4	0.0
Goods Producing	5,871	5,942	6,063	-1.2	-3.2	17,261	17,587	17,693	-1.9	-2.4
Mining	Small, combined with construction					5,553	5,593	5,137	-0.7	8.1
Construction	1,605	1,724	1,871	-6.9	-14.2	3,195	3,430	4,058	-6.9	-21.3
Manufacturing	4,266	4,218	4,192	1.1	1.8	8,513	8,564	8,498	-0.6	0.2
Durable Goods	1,783	1,777	1,712	0.3	4.1	4,523	4,582	4,400	-1.3	2.8
Nondurable Goods	2,483	2,441	2,480	1.7	0.1	3,990	3,982	4,098	0.2	-2.6
Service Producing	44,695	44,190	43,926	1.1	1.8	80,067	79,333	79,633	0.9	0.5
Transp., Comm., & Util.	3,309	3,317	3,288	-0.2	0.6	5,915	5,932	5,949	-0.3	-0.6
Trade	12,474	12,223	12,419	2.1	0.4	24,877	24,551	24,731	1.3	0.6
Wholesale	1,880	1,839	1,800	2.2	4.4	3,897	3,919	3,896	-0.6	0.0
Retail	10,594	10,384	10,619	2.0	-0.2	20,980	20,632	20,835	1.7	0.7
Finan., Insur., & Re. Estate	1,869	1,853	1,912	0.9	-2.2	3,218	3,263	3,243	-1.4	-0.8
Services	14,267	14,364	13,989	-0.7	2.0	24,131	24,058	23,800	0.3	1.4
Health	5,802	5,798	5,599	0.1	3.6	9,381	9,398	9,249	-0.2	1.4
Other Services	8,465	8,566	8,390	-1.2	0.9	14,750	14,660	14,551	0.6	1.4
Government	12,776	12,433	12,318	2.8	3.7	21,926	21,529	21,910	1.8	0.1

Southern Minnesota

LABOR FORCE DATA	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	Nov. 1990	Oct. 1990	Nov. 1989	Nov. 1990	Oct. 1990	Nov. 1989	Nov. 1990	Oct. 1990	Nov. 1989
REGION 6W	23,978	24,309	23,145	973	836	1,039	3.9	3.3	4.3
Big Stone	2,745	2,785	2,688	110	129	122	3.9	4.4	4.3
Chippewa	7,023	7,125	6,183	237	274	343	3.3	3.7	5.3
Lac Qui Parle	3,935	4,004	3,815	129	115	123	3.2	2.8	3.1
Swift	4,569	4,616	4,789	212	171	230	4.4	3.6	4.6
Yellow Medicine	5,706	5,779	5,670	285	147	221	4.8	2.5	3.8
REGION 8	61,325	61,820	59,163	2,407	2,152	2,088	3.8	3.4	3.4
Cottonwood	6,092	6,236	6,038	290	364	189	4.5	5.5	3.0
Jackson	5,512	5,584	5,263	221	278	176	3.9	3.9	3.2
Lincoln	3,141	3,212	3,061	218	115	139	6.5	3.5	4.3
Lyon	12,747	12,744	11,527	469	369	463	3.5	2.8	3.9
Murray	4,608	4,644	4,674	187	150	185	3.9	3.1	3.8
Nobles	12,143	12,179	11,396	348	374	341	2.8	3.0	2.9
Pipestone	4,882	4,891	5,174	216	237	239	4.2	4.6	4.4
Redwood	7,465	7,503	7,514	240	223	235	3.1	2.9	3.0
Rock	4,735	4,827	4,516	218	92	121	4.4	1.9	2.6
REGION 9	111,746	112,389	108,007	4,244	3,998	3,852	3.7	3.4	3.4
Blue Earth	29,266	28,925	28,538	946	674	798	3.1	2.3	2.7
Brown	14,151	14,115	13,394	532	427	563	3.6	2.9	4.0
Faribault	7,409	7,641	7,276	334	366	254	4.3	4.6	3.4
LeSueur	10,498	11,159	10,166	619	657	561	5.6	5.6	5.2
Martin	11,808	12,033	11,219	520	500	436	4.2	4.0	3.7
Nicollet	15,976	15,790	15,579	504	402	479	3.1	2.5	3.0
Sibley	6,590	6,708	6,620	309	318	289	4.5	4.5	4.2
Waseca	9,964	9,840	9,221	294	426	281	2.9	4.1	3.0
Watonwan	6,084	6,178	5,994	186	228	191	3.0	3.6	3.1
REGION 10	225,699	225,732	220,972	8,405	9,073	6,787	3.6	3.9	3.0
Dodge	8,176	8,216	8,060	374	431	325	4.4	5.0	3.9
Fillmore	9,580	9,728	9,578	341	346	401	3.4	3.4	4.0
Freeborn	15,357	15,348	16,657	1,303	1,665	633	7.8	9.9	3.7
Goodhue	21,549	21,659	20,730	815	876	643	3.6	3.9	3.0
Houston	9,829	9,854	9,396	337	207	274	3.3	2.1	2.8
Mower	18,286	18,364	16,340	614	659	497	3.2	3.5	3.0
Olmsted	63,880	63,190	62,484	1,804	1,775	1,619	2.7	2.7	2.5
Rice	28,218	28,187	26,856	837	1,028	906	2.9	3.5	3.3
Steele	16,277	16,302	15,774	617	592	401	3.7	3.5	2.5
Wabasha	6,164	8,297	8,853	417	422	313	4.9	4.8	3.4
Winona	26,383	26,587	26,234	946	1,052	771	3.5	3.8	2.9
Rochester City	39,743	39,314	38,874	1,306	1,283	1,154	3.2	3.2	2.9

ROCHESTER MSA NONFARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	Employment			% Change From	
Industry	Nov. 1990	Oct. 1990	Nov. 1989	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	65,785	65,191	64,821	0.9	1.5
Goods Producing	14,297	14,334	14,487	-0.3	-1.3
Construction and Mining	2,398	2,435	2,432	-1.5	-1.4
Manufacturing	11,899	11,899	12,055	0.0	-1.3
Durable Goods	9,911	9,861	10,081	0.5	-1.7
Nondurable Goods	1,988	2,038	1,974	-2.5	0.7
Service Producing	51,488	50,857	50,334	1.2	2.3
Transp., Comm., & Util.	1,875	1,885	1,900	-0.5	-1.3
Trade	13,105	12,827	12,818	2.2	2.2
Wholesale	1,410	1,391	1,362	1.4	3.5
Retail	11,695	11,436	11,456	2.3	2.1
Finan., Insur., & Re. Estate	1,698	1,682	1,619	1.0	4.9
Services	28,140	28,022	27,447	0.4	2.5
Health	18,577	18,542	18,404	0.2	0.9
Other Services	9,563	9,480	9,043	0.9	5.8
Government	6,670	6,441	6,550	3.6	1.8

Southern Minnesota's November Unemployment Rates Generally Were Slightly Higher Than Last November's

Unemployment rates generally rose over the month and year, but the changes were inconsistent and modest. Region 6's rate, for example, dropped over the year, and Region 10's dropped over the month. The Rochester MSA's unemployment rate remained unchanged from October's 2.7%. That was near last November's 2.5%.

Employment, for the most part, dropped over the month in Southern Minnesota, but remained above year-ago levels. The Rochester MSA performed especially well with employment rising from 62,484 last November, and 63,190 in October, to 63,880 this November.

Nonfarm payroll jobs in the Rochester MSA continued to rise, reaching a new level for November at 65,785. That was up from 65,191 in October, and up from 64,821 jobs last November (a 1.5% increase over the year).

Over the year, the strong job gainers in the MSA were nonmedical services--up 5.8%, finance/insurance/real estate--up 4.9% and wholesale trade--up 3.5%. Over-the-year job losses in the major industry sectors were all within two percent.

Job level changes since October were small. Local education, the only possible exception, contributed strongly to the 3.6% rise in government jobs.

All of the above statistics support the general feeling that the area is resisting whatever recessionary pressures may be affecting the country. The area's well-educated work force, diversity of prospering industries, and healthy agricultural base seem to be the underlying reasons.

By Ron Daws

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Minnesota Labor Market Review

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Jobs and Training

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Selected Minnesota Program Statistics

Distribution of Insured Unemployed by Industry and Occupation, Nov. 1990

Industry Attachment	Number	Percent of Total	Percent*/ Long-Term Unemployed	Women as Percent of total
TOTAL, ALL INDUSTRIES	33,199	100.0	22.3	32.3
Ag., For., Fish.	763	2.3	4.2	15.3
Mining	302	0.9	9.1	10.1
Construction	6,885	20.7	7.0	4.8
Manufacturing	8,526	25.7	24.8	32.6
Public Utilities	1,441	4.3	25.0	26.8
Wholesale Trade	2,351	7.1	31.1	31.3
Retail Trade	3,637	11.0	29.9	46.1
Fin., Ins., Re. Est.	1,324	4.0	35.8	58.8
Services	5,826	17.5	28.6	53.2
Public Admin.	1,149	3.5	15.1	38.4
Info. Not Available	995	3.0	25.0	37.7
Occupational Attachment				
TOTAL, ALL OCCUPATIONS	33,199	100.0	22.3	32.3
Prof., Tech., Mgr.	6,788	20.4	34.9	39.5
Clerical	4,003	12.1	33.2	79.8
Sales	1,671	5.0	29.8	34.0
Services	2,112	6.4	21.2	59.8
Farm, For., Fish.	829	2.5	2.8	17.0
Processing	908	2.7	23.6	26.6
Machine Trades	2,131	6.4	19.2	12.7
Benchwork	2,706	8.2	18.0	51.7
Structural Work	7,739	23.3	8.2	3.5
Misc., & INA	4,312	13.0	22.9	15.2

Distribution of Insured Unemployed by Age and Sex, Nov. 1990

Age Groups	Number	Percent Distribution		
		Men of Totals	Men of Men	Women of Women
TOTALS	33,199	67.8	100.0	100.0
Under 45	24,479	68.6	74.6	71.9
Under 25	4,069	70.9	12.8	11.1
25-34	11,671	69.5	36.0	33.4
35-44	8,739	66.4	25.8	27.5
45 and over	8,720	65.6	25.4	28.1
45-54	5,320	65.5	15.5	17.2
55 and over	3,400	65.7	9.9	10.9

Experienced Supply/Job Openings Demand**/

Applicants (Supply) Nov. 1990	Job Openings (Demand) Nov. 1990	Supply/Demand Ratio	
		Cur. 1990	Cur. 1989
50,183	20,821	2.4	2.7
14,060	1,891	7.4	5.3
9,115	3,060	3.0	3.2
3,537	2,793	1.3	1.3
4,858	5,412	0.9	0.9
693	451	1.5	1.2
1,013	1,843	0.6	1.1
3,201	733	4.4	4.8
2,712	1,020	2.7	3.9
5,359	1,338	4.0	7.7
5,912	2,280	2.6	3.8

*/ Long-term unemployed refers to unemployment insurance claimants whose current spell of unemployment has lasted 15 weeks or longer.

**/ Available supply/demand at the end of the month, not applicants and openings available during the month.

54205-1

Minnesota Labor Market Review

February 1991

Nation

Unemployment Rate Keeps Rising as Number of Jobs Keeps Falling

The U.S. unemployment rate rose for the fifth time in six months to close out the year at 6.1%. As recently as June, the unemployment rate was 5.3%. The second half of 1990 saw a rapidly deteriorating labor market for all demographic groups regardless of age, race or gender. This is not surprising considering that starting in summer just about every industry weakened. In an unusual departure from prior recessions, employment in general merchandise stores and business services are down, but the brunt of job losses are still being borne by goods producers. There are fewer retail trade jobs than at the start of 1990, and far fewer manufacturing and construction jobs. Overall employment dropped every month starting in July, with especially large declines in October and November.

It is no wonder, then, that the nationwide index of help wanted advertising reached a five-year low in December. Employers are not only reluctant to take on new workers, they are quicker to lay them off. Initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits are rising faster than in previous recessions. Meanwhile, average hours worked is not falling like it usually does in a downturn. It used to be that employers cut hours a few months prior to layoffs. In today's labor market, certain workers (like those on contract from temporary services) are being let go right away, and hours for the survivors maintained.

State

Labor Markets Show First Clear Sign of Weakness

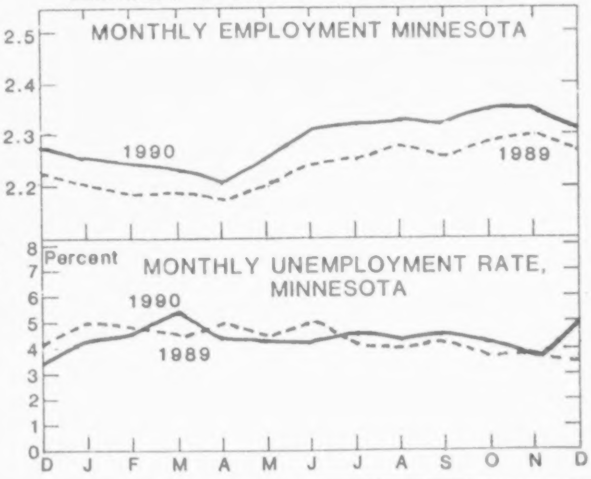
Although the first compelling signals that Minnesota's economy has begun to falter are now apparent, the large job losses seen in other parts of the nation have not yet materialized here. December's unemployment rate rose to 4.9%, a seasonal increase greater than usual, and the largest percentage-point gain from the year-ago month since the last recession. Comparisons between single months are shaky given variable weather and data collection based on small samples: last November the seasonal drop in the unemployment rate was unusually strong, and December 1989's rate of 3.6% was the lowest ever for that month. More telling is the pattern over several months. The unemployment rate has now been above its year-ago mark for six straight months, whereas in the prior year only half the months had higher figures.

Scant job growth over several months has been responsible for the rising unemployment rate. While nonfarm employment usually falls in December, this year the drop was unusual thanks to many layoffs in construction workers and the least hiring of holiday retail staff on record.

Seasonally-adjusted, the number of goods-producing jobs peaked last winter, followed by transportation and utilities in the summer, and trade/finance in fall. But unlike the nation, large job losses in Minnesota are concentrated in a handful of industries: computer manufacturing, construction, trucking, and general retail stores.

By Don Hilber

Labor Force Estimates



	Minnesota (In Thousands) Dec 90	Minnesota (In Thousands) Nov 90	Minnesota (In Thousands) Dec 89	United States (In Thousands) Dec 90	United States (In Thousands) Nov 90	United States (In Thousands) Dec 89
Labor Force	2,424.5	2,445.7	2,356.9	124,630	124,821	123,998
Employment	2,304.7	2,353.8	2,271.0	117,287	117,611	117,698
Unemployment	119.7	91.9	85.9	7,343	7,211	6,300
Act. Unemp. Rt.	4.9	3.8	3.6	5.9	5.8	5.1
S.A. Unemp. Rt.	-	-	-	6.1	5.9	5.3

Minnesota Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment, Hours & Earnings

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT 1/ (thousands)			PERCENT CHANGE FROM		PRODUCTION WORKERS & HOURS & EARNINGS 2/					
						Average Weekly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings	
	Dec. 1990	Nov. 1990	Dec. 1989	Nov. 1990	Dec. 1989	Dec. 1990	Dec. 1989	Dec. 1990	Dec. 1989	Dec. 1990	Dec. 1989
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	2,145.9	2,159.5	2,126.6	-0.6	0.9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goods Producing	470.4	484.2	478.5	-2.8	-1.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mining	7.7	8.3	7.3	-7.0	6.2	631.01	575.59	41.9	41.8	15.06	13.77
Metal Mining	6.5	6.4	5.9	0.2	8.8	649.32	597.13	41.0	42.2	15.46	14.15
Construction	71.2	82.3	75.2	-13.5	-5.4	634.87	616.34	37.7	36.6	16.84	16.84
Manufacturing	391.5	393.6	396.0	-0.5	-1.1	465.44	456.55	40.9	40.8	11.38	11.19
Durable Goods	226.4	227.6	231.0	-0.6	-2.0	479.08	474.76	41.3	41.5	11.60	11.44
Lumber and Furniture	22.8	22.7	22.3	0.2	2.2	490.50	473.77	37.5	37.1	13.08	12.77
Stone, Clay and Glass	8.0	8.9	8.4	-9.5	-4.1	510.92	478.82	42.4	41.6	12.05	11.51
Primary Metals	6.4	6.3	6.6	1.8	-2.5	474.76	471.94	41.5	42.1	11.44	11.21
Fabricated Metals	34.0	34.0	35.2	-0.1	-3.5	497.42	502.15	41.8	42.7	11.90	11.76
Industrial Machinery	77.5	77.7	83.2	-0.3	-6.8	509.09	500.74	41.9	42.4	12.15	11.81
Office and Computing	34.1	34.2	37.5	-0.3	-9.1	543.46	509.80	44.4	44.1	12.24	11.56
Electronic Equipment	28.3	28.3	27.2	-0.3	3.9	420.17	423.00	42.7	42.3	9.84	10.00
Transportation Equipment	11.2	11.7	10.1	-3.9	11.5	463.79	491.15	40.4	41.1	11.48	11.95
Instruments and Related	32.4	32.2	32.3	0.6	0.1	459.43	438.04	42.5	42.2	10.81	10.38
Misc. Manufacturing	5.8	5.8	5.7	-0.1	1.0	410.27	432.33	38.2	39.7	10.74	10.89
Nondurable Goods	165.2	166.0	165.0	-0.5	0.1	448.84	435.60	40.4	40.0	11.11	10.89
Food & Beverage Products	46.0	46.5	46.7	-1.1	-1.6	408.77	402.37	41.0	41.1	9.97	9.79
Textiles & Apparel	4.6	4.6	5.0	-1.2	-7.7	300.95	285.12	37.2	36.0	8.09	7.92
Pater Products	33.8	33.7	33.6	0.3	0.6	568.51	534.07	42.3	40.8	13.44	13.09
Printing and Publishing	52.9	53.1	51.3	-0.3	3.1	432.02	429.02	38.3	38.0	11.28	11.29
Chemicals and Petroleum	11.5	11.7	11.5	-1.3	0.0	547.46	522.45	41.6	41.3	13.16	12.65
Rubber, Plastic & Leather	16.3	16.4	16.8	-0.1	-2.8	418.20	392.89	42.2	41.4	9.91	9.49
Service Producing	1,675.4	1,675.3	1,648.1	0.0	1.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transp., Comm., & Util.	108.4	108.7	108.6	-0.3	-0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	74.3	74.4	73.8	-0.2	0.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trucking & Warehousing	27.3	27.4	28.7	0.0	-4.7	427.25	450.36	34.4	35.8	12.42	12.58
Communication & Utilities	34.2	34.4	34.8	-0.5	-1.8	644.41	579.11	40.1	37.9	16.07	15.28
Trade	533.3	531.8	530.4	0.3	0.6	246.60	239.25	30.0	29.5	8.22	8.11
Wholesale	130.1	130.2	128.7	-0.1	1.1	423.37	412.54	37.4	37.3	11.32	11.06
Retail	403.2	401.5	401.7	0.4	0.4	195.16	190.01	27.8	27.3	7.02	6.96
Building Materials	18.1	18.4	18.4	-1.5	-1.4	328.33	358.02	36.4	39.3	9.02	9.11
General Merchandise	63.5	63.0	64.6	0.9	-1.7	199.75	196.14	27.4	27.9	7.29	7.03
Food Store	56.8	56.3	55.0	1.0	3.4	199.45	198.10	26.7	27.4	7.47	7.23
Automotive	43.7	43.8	42.9	-0.3	1.9	298.07	300.26	34.7	35.2	8.59	8.53
Apparel	21.6	20.8	21.2	3.9	2.0	132.53	129.27	22.5	22.6	5.89	5.72
Home Furnishings	17.1	16.9	17.2	1.1	-0.9	296.99	283.84	32.6	32.0	9.11	8.87
Eating and Drinking	129.2	130.2	129.2	-0.8	0.0	125.90	113.44	24.4	22.2	5.16	5.11
Fin., Insur., Real Estate	123.9	123.6	121.5	0.2	2.0						
Finance	56.2	56.2	55.5	0.0	1.2						
Insurance	46.9	46.7	45.6	0.6	2.9						
Real Estate	20.8	20.8	20.3	0.2	2.4						
Services	564.2	563.1	550.9	0.2	2.4						
Personal Services	25.7	25.7	25.6	0.1	0.6						
Business Services	99.3	99.7	99.2	-0.3	0.1						
Repair Services	23.6	23.4	23.0	0.9	2.3						
Health Services	168.3	167.5	163.2	0.4	3.1						
Nursing Homes	44.1	43.8	43.3	0.6	1.7						
Hospitals	56.0	55.8	54.9	0.3	2.1						
Legal Services	16.0	16.0	15.7	0.4	2.3						
Private Education	33.5	33.7	33.1	-0.6	1.3						
Government	345.6	348.1	336.8	-0.7	2.6						
Federal	34.0	34.2	34.8	-0.6	-2.3						
State	86.4	87.3	84.8	-1.1	1.8						
Education	49.7	50.7	48.5	-1.9	2.4						
Local	225.2	226.6	217.3	-0.6	3.7						
Education	123.8	123.4	118.2	0.4	4.7						

Note: Not all industry sub-groups are shown for every major industry category.

1/ Totals may not add because of rounding.

2/ Average earnings data are on a "gross" basis and are derived from reports of payroll for full-time and part-time production or non-supervisory workers. The payroll is reported before deductions of any kind. Bonuses, retroactive pay, tips, payment in kind, and "fringe benefits" are excluded.

Minneapolis–St. Paul MSA

Unemployment Rate Soars

The unemployment rate in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area jumped to 4.1% in December. The 0.8 of a percentage point increase from November far surpasses the usual 0.1 point increase.

The abrupt turn-about in December followed an equally historical rate drop in November. It looks as though the 1990 average rate will be about 4.0%, only slightly higher than 1989's 3.8%. Nonetheless, labor market conditions worsened in the second half of 1990 as reflected by a jobless rate that is 1.1 percentage points higher than a year ago when it was at a record low. The number of unemployed workers increased by nearly 24% in December with a lion's share of the increase apparently occurring among structural occupations such as construction trades, welders, and metal fabricating.

The monthly survey of payroll jobs in Twin Cities' area establishments also revealed a sharper than normal cutback in construction. Holiday season hiring among retailers was only about 1/3 the average this year.

Durable goods manufacturing was one of the bright spots. After losing jobs for the past eight consecutive months, the seasonally adjusted number rose slightly. Still, future cutbacks have recently been announced by wood-products and transportation equipment firms.

As happened nationally, the length of the average workweek for local manufacturing production workers increased in December and remains about the same as a year ago even though the number of jobs dropped by over 3,500. It should be noted that most of the job loss was concentrated in the computer industry. Normally, one would expect factories to reduce production first by cutting hours and then by furloughing workers. It is curious, therefore, that in spite of the national recession, the length of the workweek in manufacturing remains high.

By Bruce Steuernagel

LABOR FORCE DATA

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	Dec. 1990	Nov. 1990	Dec. 1989	Dec. 1990	Nov. 1990	Dec. 1989	Dec. 1990	Nov. 1990	Dec. 1989
Mpls-St. Paul	1,375,325	1,401,109	1,370,540	58,733	47,441	42,323	4.1	3.3	3.0
REGION 11	1,290,974	1,315,437	1,286,166	52,525	43,552	38,036	3.9	3.2	2.9
Anoka	132,771	135,286	132,276	6,664	5,110	4,447	4.8	3.6	3.3
Carver	24,739	25,208	24,647	1,067	758	844	4.1	2.9	3.3
Dakota	145,397	148,152	144,855	6,169	4,691	4,739	4.1	3.1	3.2
Hennepin	610,836	622,411	608,561	23,032	20,248	15,973	3.6	3.2	2.6
Ramsey	273,157	278,333	272,140	10,418	8,961	7,984	3.7	3.1	2.9
Scott	29,249	29,804	29,141	1,809	1,146	1,420	5.8	3.7	4.6
Washington	74,825	76,243	74,546	3,366	2,638	2,629	4.3	3.3	3.4
Chisago	14,274	14,544	14,220	1,226	820	954	7.9	5.3	6.3
Isanti	12,086	12,315	12,041	977	584	639	7.5	4.5	5.0
Wright	33,058	33,684	32,934	2,770	1,588	1,768	7.7	4.5	5.1
St. Croix, WI	24,933	25,128	25,179	1,236	899	925	4.7	3.5	3.5
Bloomington	57,266	58,351	57,053	2,081	1,895	1,421	3.5	3.1	2.4
Minneapolis	201,442	205,259	200,691	8,195	7,129	5,791	3.9	3.4	2.8
St. Paul	140,840	143,509	140,315	6,462	5,543	4,967	4.4	3.7	3.4

Mpls.-St. Paul Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment, Hours & Earnings

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT 1/ (thousands)			PERCENT CHANGE FROM		PRODUCTION WORKERS & HOURS & EARNINGS 2/					
						Average Weekly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings	
	Dec. 1990	Nov. 1990	Dec. 1989	Nov. 1990	Dec. 1989	Dec. 1990	Dec. 1989	Dec. 1990	Dec. 1989	Dec. 1990	Dec. 1989
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	1,389.7	1,395.7	1,375.6	-0.4	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goods Producing	305.4	311.9	311.5	-2.1	-2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mining	0.4	0.5	0.5	-11.1	-16.4	681.03	655.62	42.3	41.6	16.10	15.76
Construction	47.6	53.2	49.8	-10.6	-4.5	687.38	656.30	37.5	36.3	18.33	18.08
Manufacturing	257.4	258.2	261.2	-0.3	-1.5	494.84	478.88	41.1	41.0	12.04	11.68
Durable Goods	153.7	154.1	158.4	-0.3	-3.0	507.56	492.06	41.4	41.7	12.26	11.80
Lumber and Furniture	9.1	9.1	9.2	0.6	-0.5	545.14	530.33	37.7	37.4	14.46	14.18
Stone, Clay and Glass	2.9	3.2	3.0	-10.8	-4.7	526.08	473.54	41.1	39.2	12.80	12.08
Primary Metals	4.5	4.5	4.6	1.1	-2.4	483.21	455.52	41.8	42.1	11.56	10.82
Fabricated Metals	25.6	25.6	26.6	-0.1	-3.8	516.15	512.19	42.1	42.4	12.26	12.08
Industrial Machinery	54.8	54.9	60.0	-0.2	-8.8	542.05	525.58	41.6	42.8	13.03	12.28
Office and Computing	22.5	22.5	25.9	-0.2	-13.2	621.30	584.51	43.6	46.5	14.25	12.57
Electronic Equipment	17.8	18.0	17.8	-1.1	0.4	429.93	403.21	41.3	40.2	10.41	10.03
Transportation Equipment	5.5	5.6	4.1	-0.9	36.7	581.02	693.74	38.2	44.3	15.21	15.66
Instruments and Related	29.6	29.4	29.4	0.6	0.6	478.84	457.10	43.1	42.6	11.11	10.73
Misc. Manufacturing	3.8	3.8	3.8	0.4	2.2	468.86	492.05	38.4	40.8	12.21	12.06
Nondurable Goods	103.8	104.1	102.8	-0.4	0.9	477.82	461.95	40.7	40.1	11.74	11.52
Food & Beverage Products	17.1	17.1	16.9	-0.4	0.9	510.94	498.88	42.9	43.8	11.91	11.39
Paper Products	25.9	25.9	25.9	0.1	0.1	512.12	475.58	41.3	39.5	12.40	12.04
Printing and Publishing	38.0	37.9	36.4	0.3	4.5	440.41	449.64	38.7	38.3	11.38	11.74
Chemicals and Petroleum	10.0	10.1	9.7	-1.3	3.2	604.14	555.79	42.1	40.1	14.35	13.86
Rubber and Plastic	11.1	11.2	11.6	-1.1	-4.0	430.76	408.51	41.7	41.6	10.33	9.82
Service Producing	1,084.3	1,083.7	1,064.1	0.1	1.9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transp. Comm., & Util.	78.5	78.4	76.8	0.1	2.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	56.8	56.7	54.8	0.0	3.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trucking & Warehousing	18.1	18.1	18.2	0.0	-0.7	424.45	427.85	32.7	33.4	12.98	12.81
Communication & Utilities	21.7	21.6	22.1	0.3	-1.7	628.84	563.25	39.5	37.6	15.92	14.98
Trade	342.2	340.8	341.2	0.4	0.3	281.46	267.85	31.1	30.3	9.05	8.84
Wholesale	88.4	88.5	87.3	-0.1	1.2	470.99	452.02	37.8	37.7	12.46	11.99
Retail	253.8	252.3	253.9	0.6	0.0	222.72	211.68	29.0	28.0	7.68	7.56
Building Materials	10.2	10.4	10.7	-1.8	-4.7	402.23	429.60	36.7	40.0	10.96	10.74
General Merchandise	44.9	44.5	45.9	0.9	-2.2	217.25	208.86	27.5	27.7	7.90	7.54
Food Stores	30.7	30.3	30.0	1.3	2.5	265.35	255.79	29.0	29.1	9.15	8.79
Automotive	25.3	25.5	25.2	-0.5	0.7	354.38	336.35	37.5	36.8	9.45	9.14
Appparel	14.9	14.4	14.3	3.4	3.6	128.44	120.22	21.3	20.8	6.03	5.78
Home Furnishings	12.4	12.2	12.5	2.1	-0.6	333.07	296.56	32.4	30.7	10.28	9.66
Eating and Drinking	82.0	82.6	82.0	-0.7	0.0	146.52	133.03	26.4	24.1	5.55	5.52
Fin., Insur., Real Estate	95.4	95.1	93.6	0.4	2.0						
Finance	40.5	40.5	40.0	-0.1	1.0						
Insurance	38.1	37.8	37.2	0.8	2.4						
Real Estate	16.8	16.8	16.3	0.3	3.1						
Services	377.6	377.0	368.6	0.2	2.4						
Personal Services	18.3	18.3	18.4	-0.2	-0.2						
Business Services	84.0	84.2	84.5	-0.2	-0.6						
Repair Services	17.7	17.6	17.5	0.8	1.3						
Health Services	95.8	95.4	91.9	0.4	4.2						
Nursing Homes	23.2	23.1	22.7	0.3	2.1						
Hospitals	33.4	33.4	32.2	0.1	3.7						
Legal Services	12.9	12.8	12.6	0.3	2.3						
Private Education	16.8	17.0	17.1	-1.1	-1.2						
Government	190.6	192.5	184.0	-1.0	3.6						
Federal	20.6	20.8	20.9	-0.8	-1.1						
State	55.8	56.4	54.6	-1.2	2.3						
Education	32.0	32.7	31.1	-2.0	2.9						
Local	114.2	115.3	108.5	-0.9	5.2						
Education	64.1	64.3	60.4	-0.3	6.0						

Note: Not all industry sub-groups are shown for every major industry category.

1/ Totals may not add because of roundings.

2/ Average earnings data are on a "gross" basis and are derived from reports of payroll for full-time and part-time production or non-supervisory workers. The payroll is reported before deductions of any kind. Bonuses, retroactive pay, tips, payment in kind, and "fringe benefits" are excluded.

Central and Northwest Minnesota

LABOR FORCE DATA	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	Dec. 1990	Nov. 1990	Dec. 1989	Dec. 1990	Nov. 1990	Dec. 1989	Dec. 1990	Nov. 1990	Dec. 1989
St. Cloud	99,085	102,556	93,747	6,293	4,408	5,193	6.0	4.1	5.2
REGION 1	41,199	42,406	39,054	4,676	2,416	2,779	10.2	5.4	6.6
Kittson	2,347	2,413	2,230	258	152	178	9.9	6.3	7.4
Marshall	4,338	4,471	4,212	880	462	567	16.9	9.4	11.9
Norman	3,374	3,459	3,312	254	167	181	7.0	4.6	5.2
Pennington	6,899	7,053	6,284	741	403	432	9.7	5.4	6.4
Polk	13,969	14,315	13,314	1,021	748	698	6.8	5.0	5.0
Red Lake	1,409	1,519	1,305	299	161	197	17.5	9.6	13.1
Roseau	8,863	9,176	8,397	1,223	313	526	12.1	3.3	5.9
REGION 2	30,000	31,061	28,740	2,738	1,900	[illegible]	8.4	5.8	6.0
Beltrami	16,328	16,925	15,624	1,104	837	711	6.3	4.7	4.4
Clearwater	3,051	3,186	3,030	640	375	465	17.3	10.5	13.3
Hubbard	6,351	6,658	5,913	669	479	453	9.5	6.7	7.1
Lake of Woods	2,004	1,909	1,917	74	57	50	3.6	2.9	2.5
Mahnomen	2,266	2,383	2,256	251	152	171	10.0	6.0	7.0
REGION 4	95,907	98,599	93,516	6,489	4,333	4,698	6.3	4.2	4.8
Becker	13,221	13,627	12,751	1,396	782	1,007	9.6	5.4	7.3
Clay	25,523	26,264	24,893	1,204	811	876	4.5	3.0	3.4
Douglas	15,032	15,323	15,082	872	654	618	5.5	4.1	3.9
Grant	2,879	2,925	2,710	235	144	163	7.5	4.7	5.7
Otter Tail	24,462	25,171	23,515	1,872	1,319	1,399	7.1	5.0	5.6
Pope	4,646	4,671	4,353	360	243	240	7.2	4.9	5.2
Stevens	5,036	5,272	5,087	246	166	193	4.7	3.1	3.7
Traverse	1,995	2,035	1,882	128	87	87	6.0	4.1	4.4
Wilkin	3,113	3,311	3,243	176	127	115	5.4	3.7	3.4
REGION 5	57,050	58,644	56,682	5,563	4,473	3,976	8.9	7.1	6.6
Cass	7,805	8,114	7,392	985	761	726	11.2	8.6	8.9
Crow Wing	20,797	21,482	21,136	1,608	1,293	1,228	7.2	5.7	5.5
Morrison	13,292	13,599	13,512	1,526	1,393	1,030	10.3	9.3	7.1
Todd	10,522	10,725	9,874	962	660	694	8.4	5.8	6.6
Wadena	4,634	4,724	4,768	482	366	298	9.4	7.2	5.9
REGION 6E	53,484	54,451	51,969	3,208	2,442	2,313	5.7	4.3	4.3
Kandiyohi	20,229	20,546	19,243	957	774	643	4.5	3.6	3.2
McLeod	16,558	16,697	16,220	856	590	653	4.9	4.0	3.9
Meeker	8,456	8,683	8,059	857	608	563	9.2	6.5	6.5
Renville	8,241	8,525	8,447	538	370	454	6.1	4.2	5.1
REGION 7E	50,814	52,011	50,122	4,759	3,119	3,443	8.6	5.7	6.4
Chisago	14,274	14,544	14,220	1,226	820	954	7.9	5.3	6.3
Isanti	12,086	12,315	12,041	977	584	639	7.5	4.5	5.0
Kanabec	5,047	5,272	5,559	685	472	501	12.0	8.2	8.3
Mille Lacs	9,996	10,165	9,308	787	520	580	7.3	4.9	5.9
Pine	9,411	9,715	8,994	1,084	723	769	10.3	6.9	7.9
REGION 7W	132,144	136,239	126,681	9,063	5,995	6,962	6.4	4.2	5.2
Benton	15,627	16,174	14,785	1,122	804	997	6.7	4.7	6.3
Sherburne	19,205	19,877	18,170	1,769	1,177	1,075	8.4	5.6	5.6
Stearns	64,254	66,504	60,792	3,402	2,426	3,122	5.0	3.5	4.9
Wright	33,058	33,684	32934	2,770	1,588	1768	7.7	4.5	5.1

ST. CLOUD MSA NONFARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	Employment			% Change From	
Industry	Dec. 1990	Nov. 1990	Dec. 1989	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	82,012	83,187	79,674	-1.9	2.7
Goods Producing	18,700	19,638	17,448	-4.8	7.2
Construction and Mining	3,619	4,547	3,827	-20.4	-5.4
Manufacturing	15,081	15,091	13,621	-0.1	10.7
Durable Goods	8,705	8,751	7,323	-0.5	18.9
Nondurable Goods	6,376	6,340	6,298	0.6	1.2
Service Producing	63,312	63,549	62,226	-0.9	1.5
Transp., Comm., & Util.	3,868	3,819	3,795	1.3	1.9
Trade	25,981	26,357	25,682	-1.4	1.2
Wholesale	3,900	3,955	3,718	-1.4	4.9
Retail	22,081	22,402	21,964	-1.4	0.5
Finan., Insur., & Re. Estate	2,477	2,460	2,424	0.7	2.2
Services	17,127	17,040	16,174	0.5	5.9
Health	5,811	5,788	5,443	0.4	6.8
Other Services	11,316	11,252	10,731	0.6	5.5
Government	13,859	13,873	14,151	-2.7	-3.3

Employment Drops in December While Unemployment Climbs

Unemployment rates climbed during December, the first serious signal of impending recession. Unemployment rates typically rise during December, but this increase widens the over-the-year gap. Coupled with rising unemployment, employment in most areas dropped over the month; however, much of that was seasonal.

In the St. Cloud MSA the unemployment rate jumped vigorously from 4.1% in November to 6.0% in December. Still, although the unemployment rate was only 5.2% last year, in December 1988 (a boom year) the rate was higher than this year's at 6.3%.

Employment in the MSA dropped by 3,471 or 3.4% over the month. Last December it fell by 3.0%, so the trend is not alarming--especially when one notes that this December's employment was 5,338 or 5.7% greater than last December's.

The St. Cloud MSA's nonfarm payroll jobs fell by 1,175 or 1.4% over the month. While jobs often decline in December, the loss is usually less. Even with this drop, there still were 2,338 or 2.9% more nonfarm jobs in the MSA than during last December.

In a display of strength continuing since 1985, manufacturing retained its workers over the month and ended 1990 with 1,460 or 10.7% more jobs it had last December, essentially by virtue of the durable goods producing sector. Construction, as usual, lost jobs in December and in so doing fell 5.4% below last December's level. In November there were slightly more construction jobs than during November 1989.

Among service producers, health was the fastest job gainer over the month and year. Other services (mainly business) lost a small percentage of their jobs over the month and year. Trade lost a small number of jobs since November (usually it adds a few), but still had about one percent more workers than it did last December. Government jobs remained essentially unchanged over the month to render the year-end level about two percent under last December's.

By Ron Daws

Northeast Minnesota

Unemployment Rises more Than Normal During December

Region 3's unemployment rate jumped to 6.7% in December from 5.2% in November. Last December's rate was 4.9%. Duluth's rate climbed from 3.9% in November to 4.8% in December. Last December Duluth's rate was 3.3%. December rises were greater than the normal seasonal jumps, increasing the gap over comparable months of 1989.

Employment in Region 3 and Duluth dropped over the month, but remained greater than during December 1989. The number of nonfarm payroll jobs in Duluth dropped from 50,475 in November to 50,224 in December, a normal cutback. There still remained nearly one percent more payroll jobs than there were last December, a record for December, at least since 1973.

The completion of several construction projects helped eliminate 100 construction jobs between November and December. Construction employed 200 more workers last December than this December. Manufacturing, meanwhile, remained strong with about 30 more workers than during November, and nearly as many as during last December, thanks mainly to durable-goods producers. The number of retail trade jobs remained essentially constant over the month, but cautious holiday consumers kept payrolls slightly below last year's level.

Duluth's health-service industry grew impressively--by 4.5% over the month and 7.2% over the year. Non-health service jobs increased only one percent over the year after dropping slightly over the month.

By Ron Daws

LABOR FORCE DATA

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	Dec. 1990	Nov. 1990	Dec. 1989	Dec. 1990	Nov. 1990	Dec. 1989	Dec. 1990	Nov. 1990	Dec. 1989
REGION 3	137,025	141,323	133,192	9,897	7,696	6,845	6.7	5.2	4.9
Aitkin	5,067	5,156	4,606	622	424	502	10.9	7.6	9.8
Carlton	12,681	13,050	11,403	955	686	651	7.0	5.0	5.4
Cook	2,466	2,418	2,390	183	150	139	6.9	5.8	5.5
Itasca	17,002	17,447	15,995	1,504	1,258	1,180	8.1	6.7	6.9
Koochiching	8,597	9,566	8,223	706	601	295	7.6	5.9	3.5
Lake	4,245	4,354	3,717	375	304	194	8.1	6.5	5.0
St. Louis	86,967	89,332	86,858	5,552	4,273	3,884	6.0	4.6	4.3
City of Duluth	37,756	38,783	37,709	1,898	1,582	1,303	4.8	3.9	3.3
Balance St. Louis	49,211	50,549	49,149	3,654	2,691	2,581	6.9	5.1	5.0

DULUTH & DULUTH-SUPERIOR MSA NONFARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT

Industry	DULUTH					DULUTH SUPERIOR				
	Employment			% Change From		Employment			% Change From	
	Dec. 1990	Nov. 1990	Dec. 1989	Month Ago	Year Ago	Dec. 1990	Nov. 1990	Dec. 1989	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	50,224	50,475	49,761	-0.5	0.9	96,818	97,420	96,707	-0.6	0.1
Goods Producing	5,698	5,771	5,919	-1.3	-3.7	16,722	17,210	17,392	-2.8	-3.9
Mining	Small, combined with construction					5,553	5,562	5,404	-0.2	2.8
Construction	1,501	1,608	1,701	-6.7	-11.8	2,736	3,226	3,513	-15.2	-22.1
Manufacturing	4,197	4,163	4,218	0.8	-0.5	8,433	8,422	8,475	0.1	-0.5
Durable Goods	1,777	1,783	1,718	-0.3	3.4	4,473	4,522	4,350	-1.1	2.8
Nondurable Goods	2,420	2,380	2,500	1.7	-3.2	3,960	3,900	4,125	1.5	-4.0
Service Producing	44,526	44,704	43,842	-0.4	1.6	80,096	80,210	79,315	-0.1	1.0
Transp., Comm., & Util.	3,331	3,313	3,291	0.5	1.2	5,930	5,897	5,925	0.6	0.1
Trade	12,403	12,443	12,442	-0.3	-0.3	24,643	24,850	24,629	-0.8	0.1
Wholesale	1,822	1,865	1,790	-2.3	1.8	3,891	3,891	3,858	0.0	0.9
Retail	10,581	10,578	10,652	0.0	-0.7	20,752	20,959	20,771	-1.0	-0.1
Finan., Insur., & Re. Estate	1,873	1,866	1,931	0.4	-3.0	3,220	3,227	3,284	-0.2	-1.9
Services	14,544	14,302	14,064	1.7	3.4	24,348	23,984	23,706	1.5	2.7
Health	6,050	5,787	5,644	4.5	7.2	9,795	9,371	9,305	4.5	5.3
Other Services	8,494	8,515	8,420	-0.2	0.9	14,553	14,613	14,401	-0.4	1.1
Government	12,375	12,780	12,114	-3.2	2.2	21,955	22,252	21,771	-1.3	0.8

Southern Minnesota

LABOR FORCE DATA	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
—	Dec. 1990	Nov. 1990	Dec. 1989	Dec. 1990	Nov. 1990	Dec. 1989	Dec. 1990	Nov. 1990	Dec. 1989
REGION 6W	23,842	24,134	22,632	1,401	982	1,194	5.6	3.9	5.0
Big Stone	2,678	2,762	2,623	156	113	120	5.5	3.9	4.4
Chippewa	7,013	7,063	6,061	403	237	365	5.4	3.2	5.7
Lac Qui Parle	3,958	3,960	3,764	190	128	148	4.6	3.1	3.8
Swift	4,556	4,621	4,707	344	217	319	7.0	4.5	6.3
Yellow Medicine	5,637	5,728	5,477	308	287	242	5.2	4.8	4.2
REGION 8	60,720	61,659	57,986	3,224	2,324	2,[illegible]	5.0	3.6	4.2
Cottonwood	6,094	6,104	5,949	379	288	251	5.9	4.5	4.0
Jackson	5,402	5,541	5,180	306	227	188	5.4	3.9	3.5
Lincoln	3,181	3,151	2,987	222	215	187	6.5	6.4	5.9
Lyon	12,498	12,764	11,423	771	468	602	5.8	3.5	5.0
Murray	4,560	4,652	4,505	267	187	252	5.5	3.9	5.3
Nobles	12,022	12,225	11,146	486	355	318	3.9	2.8	2.8
Pipestone	4,812	4,925	4,972	288	219	257	5.6	4.3	4.9
Redwood	7,378	7,519	7,377	356	243	279	4.6	3.1	3.6
Rock	4,773	4,778	4,447	149	122	189	3.0	2.5	4.1
REGION 9	110,204	111,876	106,313	5,575	4,258	3,978	4.8	3.7	3.6
Blue Earth	28,762	29,264	28,247	1,087	950	779	3.6	3.1	2.7
Brown	13,906	14,150	13,244	703	532	522	4.8	3.6	3.8
Faribault	7,344	7,446	7,126	543	342	329	6.9	4.4	4.4
LeSueur	10,410	10,534	9,885	913	619	633	8.1	5.6	6.0
Martin	11,560	11,819	10,894	640	520	416	5.2	4.2	3.7
Nicollet	15,700	15,975	15,420	549	504	424	3.4	3.1	2.7
Sibley	6,598	6,588	6,410	434	307	351	6.2	4.5	5.2
Waseca	9,809	9,997	9,063	439	296	340	4.3	2.9	3.6
Watonwan	6,115	6,103	6,024	267	188	184	4.2	3.0	3.0
REGION 10	221,375	225,939	217,968	10,622	8,419	7,303	4.6	3.5	3.2
Dodge	8,022	8,195	7,730	592	375	361	6.9	4.4	4.5
Fillmore	9,490	9,620	9,410	560	341	438	5.6	3.4	4.4
Freeborn	15,061	15,403	16,385	1,400	1,305	716	8.5	7.8	4.2
Goodhue	21,504	21,626	20,564	949	822	696	4.2	3.7	3.3
Houston	9,342	9,865	9,151	404	333	349	4.1	3.3	3.7
Mower	17,931	18,297	16,212	771	614	527	4.1	3.2	3.1
Olmsted	62,419	63,663	61,753	2,083	1,804	1,586	3.2	2.8	2.5
Rice	27,761	28,274	26,525	1,328	837	906	4.6	2.9	3.3
Steele	16,096	16,265	15,558	723	616	434	4.3	3.6	2.7
Wabasha	8,073	8,253	8,571	532	420	425	6.2	4.8	4.7
Winona	25,676	26,478	26,109	1,280	952	865	4.7	3.5	3.2
Rochester City	38,834	39,608	38,420	1,428	1,306	1,079	3.5	3.2	2.7

ROCHESTER MSA NONFARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	Employment			% Change From	
Industry	Dec. 1990	Nov. 1990	Dec. 1989	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	65,588	65,752	64,642	-0.2	1.5
Goods Producing	13,886	14,296	13,790	-2.9	0.7
Construction and Mining	2,089	2,403	1,957	-13.1	6.7
Manufacturing	11,797	11,893	11,833	-0.8	-0.3
Durable Goods	9,965	9,905	10,014	0.6	-0.5
Nondurable Goods	1,832	1,988	1,819	-7.8	0.7
Service Producing	51,702	51,456	50,852	0.5	1.7
Transp., Comm., & Util.	1,873	1,875	1,929	-0.1	-2.9
Trade	13,251	13,092	13,122	1.2	1.0
Wholesale	1,382	1,391	1,378	-0.6	0.3
Retail	11,869	11,701	11,744	1.4	1.1
Finan., Insur., & Re. Estate	1,689	1,692	1,638	-0.2	3.1
Services	28,168	28,122	27,551	0.2	2.2
Health	18,544	18,574	18,342	-0.2	1.1
Other Services	9,624	9,548	9,209	0.8	4.5
Government	6,721	6,675	6,612	0.7	1.6

Unemployment Rates Rise

The recession seems to finally be hitting southern Minnesota. Unemployment rates rose abnormally in December to reach levels considerably above those of December 1989. Even in the Rochester MSA, the rate jumped from 2.8% in November and 2.5% last December, to 3.2% this December

While unemployment was rising in the regions, employment dropped seasonally over the month. Still, because of a strong early 1990, there were more jobs than during last December. Unexpectedly, it was the MSA that gained employment slowest over the year.

The Rochester MSA's nonfarm payroll jobs declined slightly between November and December. Historically, they rise or drop slightly between November and December, so we seem to be seeing business as usual. The recession sighted above is not apparent in the MSA's payroll job data.

Both goods- and service-producers created jobs over the year, and service-producers were even able to add jobs over the month. Construction, although losing seasonal jobs over the month, had more employment than during December 1989, and manufacturing, although losing scattered jobs over the month and year, remained basically intact.

Of service-producing industries, retail trade performed well in adding 168 jobs over the month, and 125 jobs over the year. Given that holiday shoppers in many places were becoming increasingly frugal, Rochester area shoppers seemed unaffected, leaving stores' and restaurants' businesses relatively unscathed.

Both the health- and non-medical services sectors remain strong. The health-services sector lost a few jobs over the month, but employed more workers than last December. The non-medical service sector created significantly more jobs both over the month and year, and government continued to inch upward, adding a few jobs over the month, and another percent-and-a-half of them over the year.

By Ron Daws

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Minnesota Labor Market Review

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF
Jobs and Training

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Selected Minnesota Program Statistics

SELECTED MINNESOTA PROGRAM STATISTICS

Distribution of Insured Unemployed by Industry and Occupation, Dec. 1990

Industry Attachment	Number	Percent of Total	Percent*/ Long-Term Unemployed	Women as Percent of total
TOTAL, ALL INDUSTRIES	49,681	100.0	15.2	24.6
Ag., For., Fish.	1,790	3.6	2.7	11.2
Mining	834	1.7	5.1	5.5
Construction	15,793	31.8	3.8	3.4
Manufacturing	11,589	23.3	18.7	30.5
Public Utilities	2,119	4.3	17.6	19.1
Wholesale Trade	2,797	5.6	26.0	27.9
Retail Trade	4,199	8.5	25.5	43.2
Fin., Ins., Re. Est.	1,407	2.8	32.0	55.3
Services	6,507	13.1	25.7	50.3
Public Admin.	1,412	2.8	12.7	34.2
Info. Not Available	1,234	2.5	19.1	31.1

Occupational Attachment				
TOTAL, ALL OCCUPATIONS	49,681	100.0	15.2	24.6
Prof., Tech., Mg.	7,485	15.1	31.9	37.7
Clerical	4,313	8.7	29.0	80.2
Sales	1,851	3.7	26.5	32.4
Services	2,359	4.7	20.1	58.7
Farm, For., Fish.	1,592	3.2	1.5	12.6
Processing	1,319	2.7	16.1	27.8
Machine Trades	2,601	5.2	16.7	11.5
Benchwork	3,881	7.8	13.1	50.4
Structural Work	16,840	33.9	4.6	2.3
Misc., & INA	7,440	15.0	13.7	10.0

Distribution of Insured Unemployed by Age and Sex, Dec. 1990

Age Groups	Number	Percent Distribution		
		Men of Totals	Men of Men	Women of Women
TOTALS	49,681	75.3	100.0	100.0
Under 45	36,[illegible]7	76.2	75.2	71.5
Under 25	6,265	78.5	13.1	11.0
25-34	17,856	77.0	36.7	33.5
35-44	12,776	74.1	25.3	27.0
45 and over	12,784	72.7	24.8	28.5
45-54	7,793	72.8	15.1	17.3
55 and over	4,991	72.7	9.7	11.1

Experienced Supply/Job Openings Demand**/

Applicants (Supply) Dec. 1990	Job Openings (Demand) Dec. 1990	Supply/Demand Ratio	
		Dec. 1990	Dec. 1989
45,373	19,131	2.4	2.9
12,541	1,870	6.7	5.4
7,613	2,896	2.6	2.5
3,228	2,355	1.4	1.7
4,246	4,998	0.9	0.9
660	405	1.6	1.3
917	1,817	0.5	1.6
3,004	716	4.2	5.6
2,572	872	3.0	4.6
5,327	1,229	4.3	12.2
5,495	1,973	2.8	4.3

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*/ Long-term unemployed refers to unemployment insurance claimants whose current spell of unemployment has lasted 15 weeks or longer.

**/ Available supply/demand at the end of the month, not applicants and openings available during the month.

S4205-1 A

Minnesota Labor Market Review

March 1991

In This Issue:

This *Review*, which spans four fewer pages, incorporates many but not all of the reader suggestions expressed in last summer's survey. While some readers want more graphs, some want fewer. The same with narrative. Most agreed on more analysis of non-metropolitan areas. Lack of space and current job estimates by industry prevent that--although more attention will be paid to "newsworthy" developments in rural areas. We recognize that analysis should be lively and straightforward. It is our intention to move closer to a more conversational style that spares you jargon and convoluted syntax. Your feedback on how well we perform is always welcome.

Ron Daws

Minnesota averts recessionary pressures better than the nation does (Inside cover).

Forecast says there's nearly a 40% chance of a declared recession during 1991 (Page 4).

Annual average data for 1990 reveals the slowest nonfarm job growth since 1986 (Page 13).

The supply of teachers in Minnesota exceeds the need (page 17).

Minnesota

State's Economy Creeps Sideways While the Nation's Plummets

The Minnesota economy began 1991 without either strong growth or decline. The unemployment rate moved up to 5.4% in January, but the rise from 5.0% in December was less than the usual seasonal increase. The number of jobs fell, as they usually do after the holiday shopping season ends, but not any more than average. Meanwhile, the national labor markets weakened considerably as big job losses continued.

The Minnesota unemployment rate has now exceeded its year-ago level for 11 of the last 12 months. It continues the slow climb that began two years ago. Revised data show that for 1990 this rate averaged 4.8%, up from 4.4% in 1989 and 4.0% in 1988. Over the same period the United States witnessed a different pattern: a falling unemployment rate from 1988 to 1989, and a rebound from 1989 to 1990 owing to sharp increases in the second half of last year.

Compared to last year, job growth has slowed in both the U.S. and Minnesota, with major industrial sectors are behaving similarly. Construction and manufacturing are weak, each having shed about 3,000 jobs since the start of 1990. Transportation, utilities, trade and financial services are stable, with job levels within one percent of last year. The growth has been in services and government.

Other Minnesota indicators also show an economy moving sideways. While jobs are up by 20,000 from a year ago, retail sales are down as are total hours worked in manufacturing. Our economic index, which incorporates all these measures, peaked in September and has fallen one percent since then. Its national counterpart peaked in June, fell every month thereafter, and by the end of the year was down four times as much as Minnesota's.

Why has our state's economy been resistant thus far to the steep national declines? The reason lies in the kinds of manufacturing done here. Nationally, the manufacturing industries generating the most job losses are building materials, transportation equipment, electronics and textiles/apparel. None are as prevalent in Minnesota as they are nationwide. No wonder then that net manufacturing jobs have declined three times faster in the U.S. as in our state. We are keeping afloat because our mix of basic industries is less tied to domestic consumer durables.

Much has been made of layoffs in financial services being the distinguishing feature of this recession. This is indeed a departure from the last recession when finance jobs kept growing, and losses are noticeable in Northeastern media centers. But they do not explain the differences between the nation and Minnesota.

By Don Hilber

Current Labor Force Series

	Minnesota (In Thousands)			% Change From		United States (In Thousands)			% Change From	
	Jan 91	Dec 90	Jan 90	Dec 90	Jan 90	Jan 91	Dec 90	Jan 90	Dec 90	Jan 90
Labor Force	2,422.0	2,425,4	2,355.3	-0.1	2.8	123,585	124,630	123,293	-0.8	0.2
Employment	2,291.4	2,304.7	2,238.8	-0.5	2.4	114,990	117,287	116,037	-2.0	-0.9
Unemployment	130.6	120.7	116.4	8.2	12.2	8,595	7,343	7,256	17.1	18.5
Actual Unemp. Rate	5.4	5.0	4.9			7.0	5.9	5.9		
Seasonally Adj. Rate	-	-	-			6.2	6.1	5.3		

Minnesota Nonfarm Wage & Salary Jobs, Hours & Earnings

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT 1/ (thousands)			PERCENT CHANGE FROM		PRODUCTION WORKERS & HOURS & EARNINGS 2/					
						Average Weekly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings	
	Jan. 1991	Dec. 1990	Jan. 1990	Dec. 1990	Jan. 1990	Jan. 1991	Jan. 1990	Jan. 1991	Jan. 1990	Jan. 1991	Jan. 1990
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	2,089.5	2,138.5	2,069.9	-2.3	0.9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goods Producing	458.2	472.0	464.3	-2.9	-1.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mining	7.3	7.9	7.3	-7.2	0.6	647.79	628.70	42.9	44.4	15.10	14.16
Metal Mining	6.3	6.5	6.2	-2.0	2.8	663.98	648.26	43.2	44.8	15.37	14.47
Construction	62.2	71.3	65.7	-12.7	-5.3	657.25	619.94	37.6	37.1	17.48	16.71
Manufacturing	388.7	392.9	391.4	-1.1	-0.7	459.08	449.03	40.2	40.2	11.42	11.17
Durable Goods	221.7	224.9	226.9	-1.4	-2.3	470.15	464.94	40.6	41.0	11.58	11.34
Lumber and Furniture	21.5	22.0	21.5	-2.0	0.1	481.00	494.80	37.2	37.8	12.93	13.09
Stone, Clay and Glass	7.2	8.0	7.2	-9.8	0.2	493.64	476.42	41.0	41.5	12.04	11.48
Primary Metals	6.2	6.3	6.3	-1.5	-1.6	453.72	447.63	39.8	40.4	11.40	11.08
Fabricated Metals	34.0	34.1	34.5	-0.3	-1.4	501.60	486.36	41.8	42.0	12.00	11.58
Industrial Machinery	74.0	74.9	78.9	-1.1	-6.2	505.[illegible]	476.83	41.7	41.0	12.13	11.63
Office and Computing	32.0	32.6	36.2	-1.8	-11.4	537.90	474.12	44.9	41.3	11.98	11.48
Electronic Equipment	29.9	30.1	29.7	-0.6	0.9	395.60	419.05	40.7	42.5	9.72	9.86
Transportation Equipment	10.3	10.4	9.5	-0.5	8.6	445.77	495.33	38.1	41.8	11.70	11.85
Instruments and Related	32.6	32.9	33.1	-0.9	-1.6	450.58	439.[illegible]	41.3	41.7	10.91	10.55
Misc. Manufacturing	5.8	6.2	6.1	-5.8	-4.7	409.43	420.90	38.3	38.9	10.69	10.82
Nondurable Goods	166.9	168.0	164.5	-0.6	1.5	445.43	430.73	39.7	39.3	11.22	10.96
Food & Beverage Products	47.4	47.8	47.0	-0.8	0.9	406.62	392.22	40.5	39.9	10.04	9.83
Textiles & Apparel	4.8	4.8	4.7	1.3	3.3	284.20	286.40	35.0	34.8	8.12	8.23
Pater Products	34.2	34.2	33.6	0.0	2.0	583.01	562.79	42.9	42.7	13.59	13.18
Printing and Publishing	52.5	52.9	51.1	-0.8	2.7	419.97	413.91	37.1	36.5	11.32	11.34
Chemicals and Petroleum	11.4	11.6	11.5	-1.6	-1.2	537.20	513.34	40.3	41.6	13.33	12.34
Rubber, Plastic & Leather	16.6	16.7	16.6	-0.8	-0.2	411.88	383.76	40.7	40.1	10.12	9.57
Service Producing	1,631.3	1,666.5	1,605.6	-2.1	1.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transp., Comm., & Util.	107.4	109.8	106.4	-2.3	0.9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	73.2	75.8	72.3	-3.4	1.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trucking & Warehousing	25.9	27.9	26.5	-7.0	-2.1	392.36	396.11	32.4	32.1	12.11	12.34
Communication & Utilities	34.2	34.1	34.1	0.3	0.1	613.35	577.22	38.6	37.9	15.89	15.23
Trade	504.0	523.3	504.5	-3.7	-0.1	240.83	227.64	28.3	28.0	8.51	8.13
Wholesale	122.3	124.9	123.1	-2.1	-0.7	418.86	399.68	37.1	36.5	11.29	10.95
Retail	381.7	398.4	381.4	-4.2	0.1	189.15	178.43	25.7	25.6	7.36	6.97
Building Materials	16.9	17.8	16.8	-4.8	1.0	323.52	310.80	34.9	35.0	9.27	8.88
General Merchandise	57.3	60.8	59.2	-5.7	-3.1	176.86	171.36	23.9	24.0	7.40	7.14
Food Store	54.3	56.0	52.6	-3.0	3.4	201.46	184.08	26.3	26.0	7.66	7.08
Automotive	42.8	43.2	43.1	-0.9	-0.6	290.18	287.46	33.9	34.1	8.56	8.43
Apparel	19.9	21.4	20.8	-7.2	-4.6	126.07	122.72	20.6	20.8	6.12	5.90
Home Furnishings	15.4	16.1	15.6	-4.4	-1.4	270.59	266.91	30.2	30.4	8.96	8.78
Eating and Drinking	124.7	129.5	123.2	-3.7	1.2	127.46	111.92	21.9	21.4	5.82	5.23
Fin., Insur., Real Estate	124.0	125.0	123.0	-0.8	0.8						
Finance	56.5	56.5	56.7	-0.1	-0.3						
Insurance	46.9	47.1	45.9	-0.5	2.1						
Real Estate	20.6	21.3	20.4	-3.3	1.1						
Services	551.5	560.1	534.9	-1.5	3.1						
Personal Services	25.2	25.6	24.8	-1.6	1.6						
Business Services	91.6	94.9	90.0	-3.4	1.8						
Repair Services	23.7	23.6	23.5	0.6	1.1						
Health Services	169.2	169.6	163.7	-0.2	3.4						
Nursing Homes	43.6	43.8	43.2	-0.5	0.9						
Hospitals	56.6	56.8	55.3	-0.4	2.3						
Legal Services	15.9	16.0	15.5	-0.2	2.8						
Private Education	33.8	36.1	32.7	-6.2	3.5						
Government	344.5	348.3	336.9	-1.1	2.3						
Federal	33.7	33.9	34.1	-0.4	-1.0						
State	86.0	86.8	84.8	-0.9	1.4						
Education	48.9	49.6	48.3	-1.5	1.2						
Local	224.8	227.6	217.9	-1.3	3.1						
Education	121.0	124.2	118.3	-2.6	2.2						

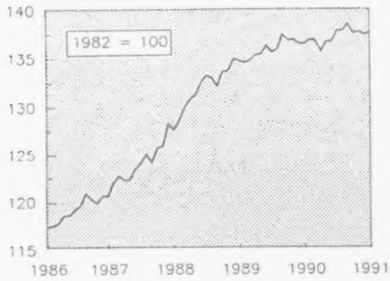
Note: Not all industry sub-groups are shown for every major industry category.

1/ Totals may not add because of rounding.

2/ Average earnings data are on a "gross" basis and are derived from reports of payroll for full-time and part-time production or non-supervisory workers. The payroll is reported before deductions of any kind. Bonuses, retroactive pay, tips, payment in kind, and "fringe benefits" are excluded.

Economic Indicators

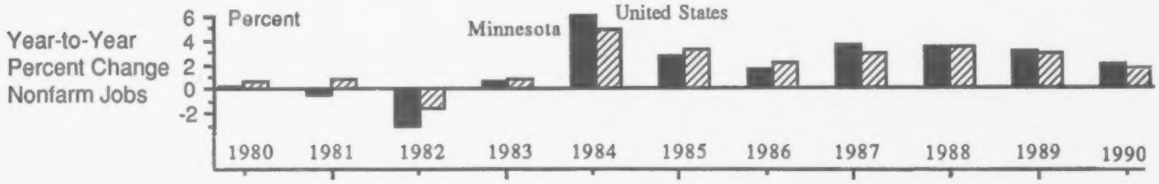
The **coincident index** peaked in October 1990 after a year of slow growth. Since then it has dropped only a little. We appear to have a sluggish, but not deteriorating economy. This index combines and tracks three indicators of the state's economy: wage & salary employment, retail sales, and total manufacturing hours. More detail is published monthly in **Minnesota Economic Indicators**, available by calling (612) 296-6545.



YR	MONTH	COINCIDENT INDEX
90	JAN	136.4
	FEB	136.8
	MAR	136.7
	APR	135.6
	MAY	136.6
	JUN	136.6
	JUL	137.7
	AUG	137.7
	SEP	138.4
	OCT	137.5
	NOV	137.6
	DEC	137.3
91	JAN	137.5

% Change from
Month 0.1%
Year 0.8%

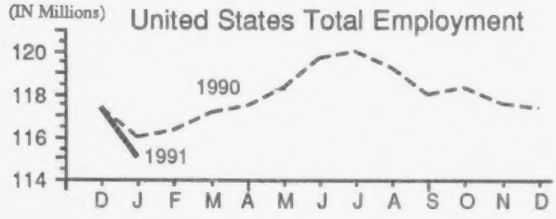
Historical Labor Force and Payroll Job Series

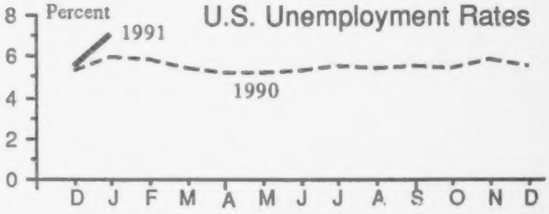


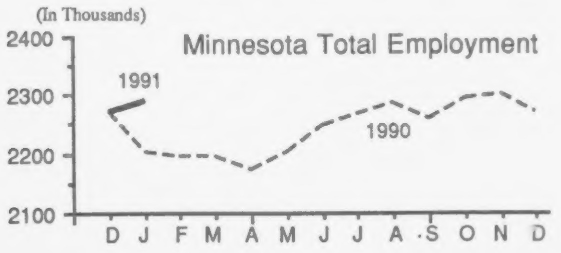
	(in Thousands)	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Mn	Labor Force	2110.0	2154.0	2167.0	2176.0	2227.0	2233.0	2230.0	2259.0	2327.0	2343.0	2404.3
	Employment	1985.0	2035.0	1998.0	1998.0	2086.0	2091.0	2111.0	2137.0	2233.0	2241,0	2287.9
	Nonfarm Payroll*	1770.0	1761.3	1707.3	1718.2	1819.8	1865.4	1893.9	1962.5	2028.0	2086.8	2126.4
	Unemployment	125.0	119.0	170.0	178.0	1451.0	133.0	119.0	122.0	94.0	102.0	116.4
	Unemployment Rate	5.9	5.5	7.8	8.2	6.3	6.0	5.3	5.4	4.0	4.4	4.8
U.S.	Labor Force	106940	108670	110205	111550	113544	115461	117835	119865	121669	123869	124787
	Employment	99303	100397	99526	100834	105005	107150	109598	112440	114968	117342	117914
	Nonfarm Payroll*	90406	91156	89566	90200	94496	97519	99525	102200	105536	108413	110330
	Unemployment	7637	8273	10678	10717	8539	8312	8237	7425	6700	6528	6874
	Unemployment Rate	7.1	7.6	9.7	9.6	7.5	7.2	7.0	6.2	5.5	5.3	5.5

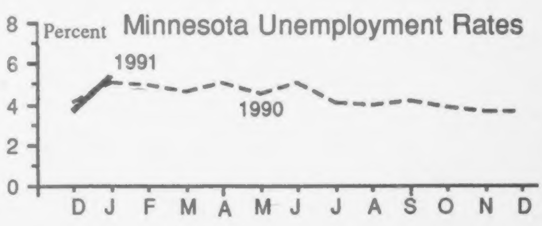
* Total employment is an estimate of the number of working Minnesotans; nonfarm payroll jobs are establishment based and reflect multiple job holding.

Total Employment & Unemployment Rates, 1990 & 1991









Forecasts of Real GNP and Minnesota Employment

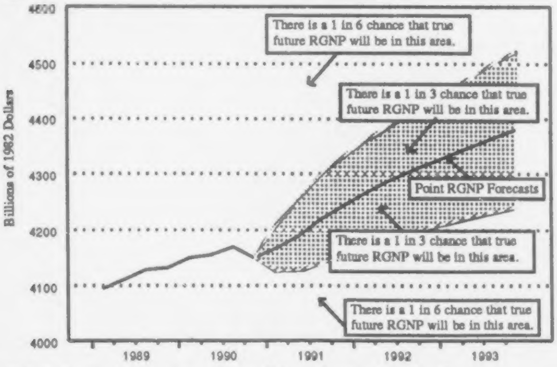
Recent articles in *Forbes* and *Business Week* reported that forecasters in corporate America were losing favor and their jobs. We suggest that this may be because they and those they report to did not adequately consider that forecasts are not really about single numbers, one for each of several time periods in the periods. Forecasts are more fundamentally a statement about an entire distribution of possible values for each future time period. Forecasts are simply a "best bet" about which out of all of these possible values will be the one that will actually occur. Forecasts like all bets are a risky business. Yet forecast reporting is usually limited to presentation of a series of single numbers. This implicitly understates the risk.

The single values reported for each period are what are called "point forecasts". The discrepancy between the forecast value and the actual value is the risk of error in the forecast.

We believe that in addition to the point forecast, forecasters have an obligation to present what we will call the risk region. We define this region to be the area that has a 2 in 3 chance of including the true value. In the figures below it is shaded. In the table, this interval can be obtained by adding and subtracting from the point forecast the value that is presented to the right of it.

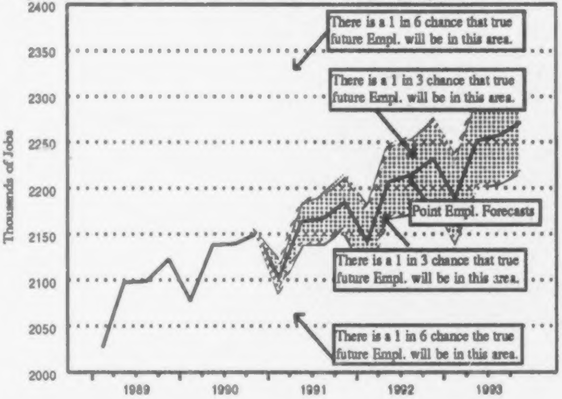
Figure 1 (Real GNP) and Figure 2 (total Minnesota Wage and Salary Employment) do this. This follows the practice of the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank. The size of the shaded areas suggests that forecasts be taken with caution.

Figure 1: The National Economy As Indicated by Real GNP



Risk data also permits asking hypothetical questions. For example, we might ask what the chances are that RGNP will fall again in the first quarter of 1991, thus meeting the quantitative definition of a recession. Figure 1 indicates that the chances are pretty good: About 32 percent. Another application might ask what the chances are that State revenue will be less than some value.

Figure 2: Total Minnesota Nonfarm Employment



The table below gives actual and point forecast values for RGNP and MN Employment.

Year: Qtr	Real GNP (Seasonally Adj Billions)	MN Employment (Not S.A. Thousands)
Actual Estimates		
1990: 4th Qtr.	4149.50	2150.68
Point Forecasts With Risk Region Boundary		
1991: 1st Qtr.	4168.65 ± 42	2102.66 ± 16
1991: 2nd Qtr.	4190.38 ± 62	2162.65 ± 23
1991: 3rd Qtr.	4216.86 ± 77	2166.51 ± 26
1991: 4th Qtr.	4241.55 ± 87	2184.49 ± 29
1992: 1st Qtr.	4264.96 ± 94	2142.14 ± 35
1992: 2nd Qtr.	4284.28 ± 97	2206.73 ± 39
1992: 3rd Qtr.	4301.52 ±105	2214.05 ± 40
1992: 4th Qtr.	4317.91 ±113	2232.33 ± 42
Percent Change		
1991	2.31%	1.88%
1992	1.62%	2.16%

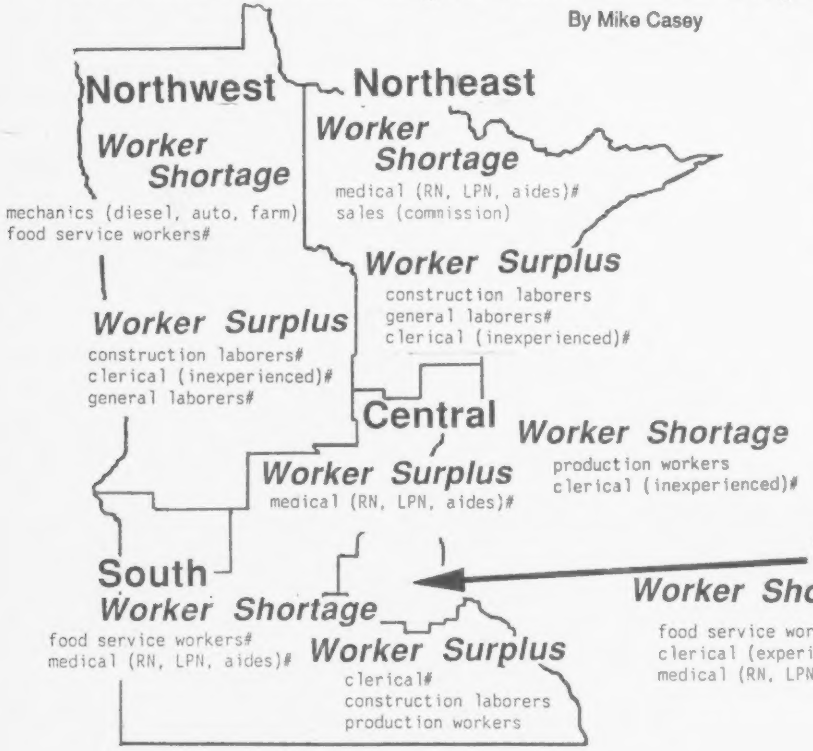
One period ahead forecasts for 1990:4 were off by 0.61% for employment and 1.02% for RGNP. The relative increase in the RGNP error is an indication that the fourth quarter was witnessing a change in the direction of growth in the economy.

.... *by Charles Cline*

The Job Market - Regional Worker Job Shortages and Surpluses

By Mike Casey

Shortage occupations are difficult to fill or lack qualified applicants. A sizable excess of qualified applicants produces a worker surplus. A # after a job indicates that it has persisted for at least two of the last three quarters.



Northwest

Worker Shortage

mechanics (diesel, auto, farm)
food service workers#

Worker Surplus

construction laborers#
clerical (inexperienced)#
general laborers#

Northeast

Worker Shortage

medical (RN, LPN, aides)#
sales (commission)

Worker Surplus

construction laborers
general laborers#
clerical (inexperienced)#

Central

Worker Shortage

production workers
clerical (inexperienced)#

Worker Surplus

medical (RN, LPN, aides)#

South

Worker Shortage

food service workers#
medical (RN, LPN, aides)#

Worker Surplus

clerical#
construction laborers
production workers

Twin Cities

Worker Shortage

food service workers#
clerical (experienced)#
medical (RN, LPN, aides)

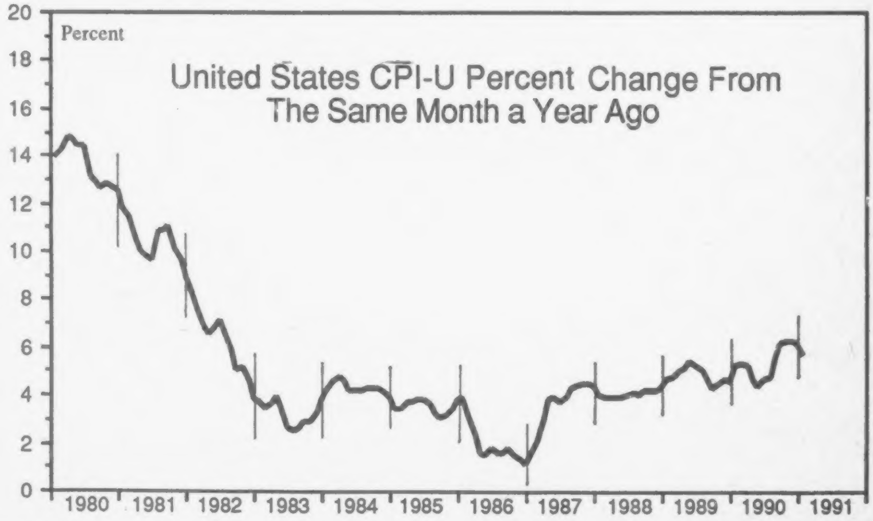
Worker Surplus

production workers
engineers
clerical (inexperienced)#

Consumer Price Indexes (CPI-U)

CPI-U % Change From a Year Ago

	US	Twin Cities
1990		
Jan	5.2	
Feb	5.3	
Mar	5.2	1st
Apr	4.7	Half
May	4.4	Av.
June	4.7	4.3
Jul	4.8	
Aug	5.6	2nd
Sep	6.2	Half
Oct	6.3	Av.
Nov	6.3	3.8
Dec	6.1	
A.A.	5.4	4.1
1991		
Jan	5.7	

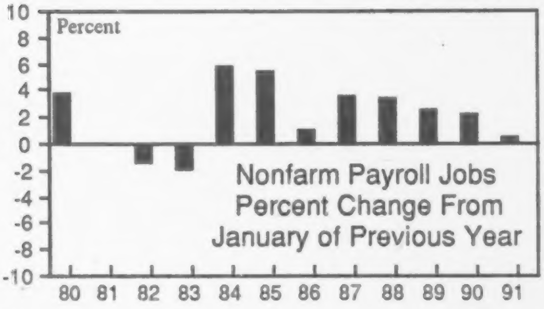


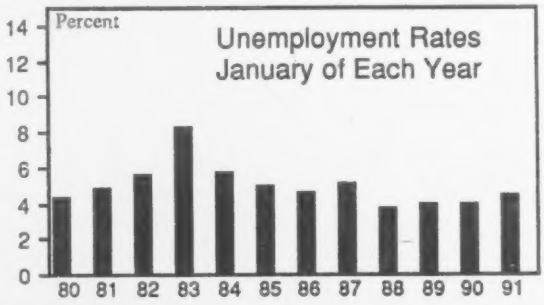
Twin Cities CPI data, which is available only for the first and second half of each year, is considered to be less reliable than the U.S. series. For gauging state price changes the U.S. CPI is best. Both the U.S. and Twin Cities indexes (CPI-W and CPI-U are available by calling (612) 296-6545.

Areas of the State

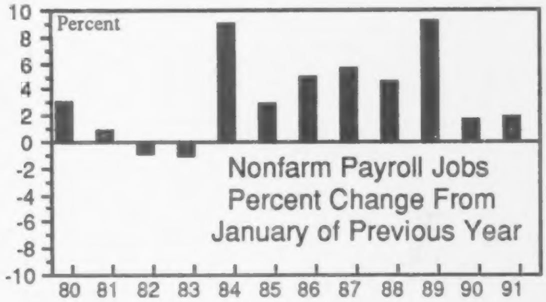
Nonfarm Jobs & Unemployment Rates for MN Metro Areas

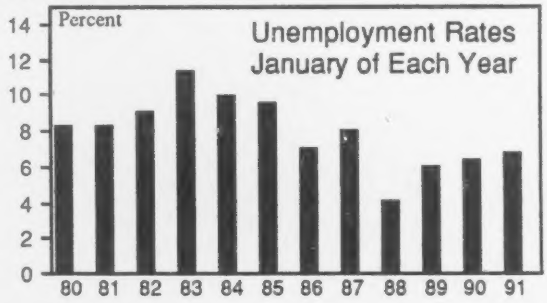
Minneapolis-St. Paul MSA



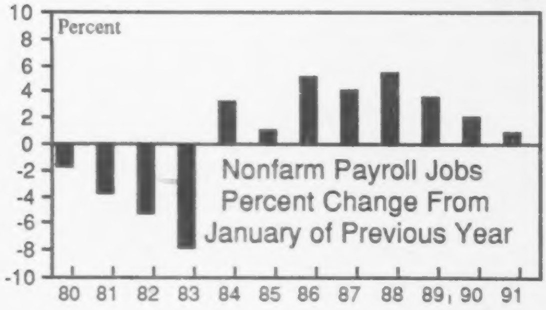


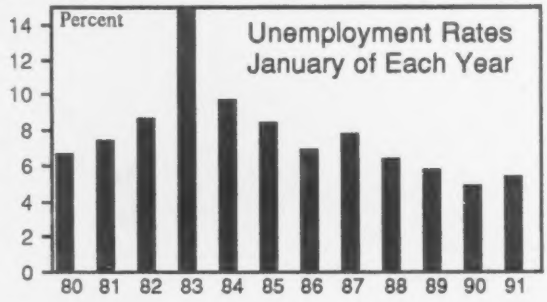
St. Cloud MSA



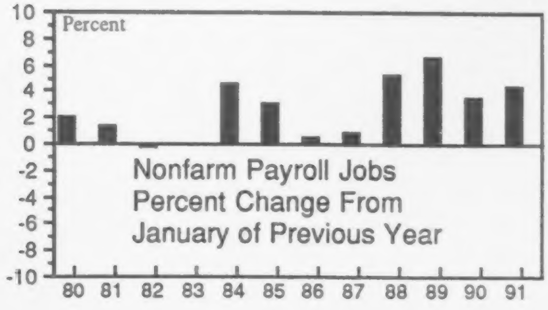


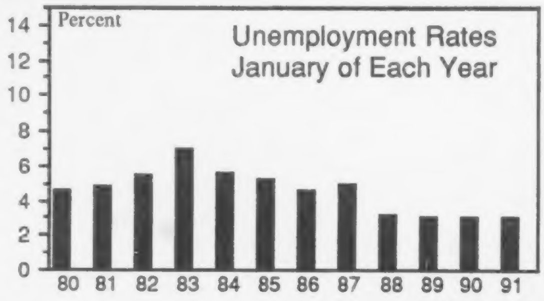
Duluth City





Rochester MSA





Minneapolis-St. Paul MSA

A Bleak Midwinter Labor Market

The unemployment rate in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area rose to 4.4% in January. While the increase of 0.3 of a percentage point is less than half the average increase between these months, and the rate remains well below the national level of 7.0%, there are several indications that the local labor market is in the weakest condition since 1986 or even the severe recession of 1982-83.

For example, the number of job openings received by the Minnesota Job Service in the Twin Cities in January was at it lowest level for the month since 1986. The sharpest declines occurred in the demand for clerical and service help, down by over 40% from last year. Similarly, the Conference Boards Help Wanted Index dropped sharply in November and December to its lowest level since 1983. The December index is about 36% below the year ago level.

A look at the trends in nonfarm payroll jobs in the Twin Cities shows a continuation of the slowdown which began last spring. A year ago job growth was 2.2%. In January 1991 it slowed to 0.5%. Hardest hit sectors in January were construction, durable-goods manufacturing and wholesale trade. The number of residential building permits issued in the metropolitan area during 1990 was down nearly 14%, the lowest since 1982. Between December and January, seven of the nine durable goods industry groups lost jobs. Thankfully, the nondurable-goods division, particularly food products and printing/publishing, has provided some stability in the manufacturing sector.

January job cutbacks were also reported in nearly all service-producing industry categories. Nevertheless, most of these were seasonal. In retail trade, the post-holiday trimmings were actually below normal because holiday hiring was feeble.

As of this writing, the quick conclusion of Desert Storm should be a psychological boost to consumers. Still, tight credit, concern about job security during the recession, and government spending cutbacks will continue to dampen the economy throughout the next several months.

By Bruce Steuernagel

LABOR FORCE DATA

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	Jan. 1991	Dec. 1990	Jan. 1990	Jan. 1991	Dec. 1990	Jan. 1990	Jan. 1991	Dec. 1990	Jan. 1990
Mpls-St. Paul	**1,349,837**	**1,359,179**	**1,330,041**	**61,716**	**58,657**	**55,104**	**4.4**	**4.1**	**4.0**
REGION 11	**1,267,475**	**1,275,829**	**1,248,350**	**54,538**	**52,477**	**49,264**	**4.1**	**4.0**	**3.8**
Anoka	130,354	131,213	128,387	7,255	6,654	5,980	5.3	4.8	4.5
Carver	24,289	24,449	23,922	1,296	1,067	1,084	5.1	4.2	4.3
Dakota	142,750	143,691	140,596	6,682	6,160	6,224	4.5	4.1	4.2
Hennepin	599,717	603,670	590,668	23,320	23,013	20,659	3.7	3.7	3.4
Ramsey	268,185	269,953	264,138	10,429	10,414	10,248	3.7	3.7	3.7
Scott	28,717	28,906	28,284	2,005	1,807	1,829	6.5	5.9	6.1
Washington	73,463	73,947	72,355	3,551	3,362	3,240	4.6	4.3	4.3
Chisago	14,014	14,106	13,802	1,447	1,224	1,353	9.4	8.0	8.9
Isanti	11,866	11,944	11,687	1,119	974	891	8.6	7.5	7.1
Wright	32,456	32,670	31,966	3,146	2,763	2,522	8.8	7.8	7.3
St. Croix, WI	24,026	24,630	24,235	1,465	1,220	1,075	5.7	4.7	4.2
Bloomington	56,223	56,594	55,375	2,080	2,079	1,795	3.6	3.5	3.1
Minneapolis	197,775	199,078	194,791	8,183	8,188	7,600	4.0	4.0	3.8
St. Paul	138,276	139,188	136,190	6,436	6,457	6,442	4.4	4.4	4.5

Twin Cities Nonfarm Wage & Salary Jobs, Hours & Earnings

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT 1/ (thousands)			PERCENT CHANGE FROM		PRODUCTION WORKERS & HOURS & EARNINGS 2/					
						Average Weekly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings	
	Jan. 1991	Dec. 1990	Jan. 1990	Dec. 1990	Jan. 1990	Jan. 1991	Jan. 1990	Jan. 1991	Jan. 1990	Jan. 1991	Jan. 1990
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	1,347.7	1,379.4	1,341.4	-2.3	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goods Producing	295.3	303.9	302.4	-2.8	-2.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mining	0.4	0.6	0.4	-32.6	-1.0	668.66	671.82	40.5	42.2	16.51	15.92
Construction	40.3	46.2	43.1	-12.6	-6.4	700.82	666.11	37.1	36.7	18.89	18.15
Manufacturing	254.5	257.1	258.9	-1.0	-1.7	488.84	471.06	40.5	40.4	12.07	11.66
Durable Goods	149.6	151.7	155.7	-1.4	-4.0	500.62	480.52	40.8	41.0	12.07	11.72
Lumber and Furniture	8.8	8.8	9.0	-0.8	-2.9	538.72	556.50	37.0	38.3	14.56	14.53
Stone, Clay and Glass	2.4	2.6	2.5	-8.0	-6.6	498.41	482.26	39.4	39.4	12.65	12.24
Primary Metals	4.5	4.6	4.6	-2.2	-0.9	450.30	431.08	39.5	40.1	11.40	10.75
Fabricated Metals	25.6	25.8	26.3	-0.7	-2.5	534.20	489.60	42.6	40.8	12.54	12.00
Industrial Machinery	51.3	52.1	56.4	-1.5	-8.9	532.25	496.43	41.1	41.3	12.95	12.02
Office and Computing	20.8	21.4	25.1	-2.8	-17.1	602.50	529.98	42.7	43.8	14.11	12.10
Electronic Equipment	18.4	18.7	18.6	-1.6	-1.1	426.13	411.26	40.7	40.8	10.47	10.08
Transportation Equipment	5.1	5.1	4.2	-0.1	21.0	576.46	669.85	37.9	43.3	15.21	15.47
Instruments and Related	29.4	29.7	30.2	-1.0	-2.5	473.05	463.49	41.9	42.6	11.29	10.88
Misc. Manufacturing	4.1	4.3	4.0	-5.4	1.2	454.66	477.99	37.7	40.1	12.06	11.92
Nondurable Goods	105.0	105.4	103.1	-0.4	1.8	472.00	458.57	40.0	39.6	11.80	11.58
Food & Beverage Products	18.3	18.3	18.1	0.0	1.0	484.22	471.83	41.6	41.1	11.64	11.48
Paper Products	26.1	26.1	25.8	-0.2	1.2	522.07	504.53	41.9	41.8	12.45	12.07
Printing and Publishing	37.7	38.0	36.1	-0.7	4.4	440.42	442.55	38.0	37.6	11.59	11.77
Chemicals and Petroleum	9.8	9.8	9.7	0.0	1.8	592.86	560.60	41.0	39.9	14.46	14.05
Rubber and Plastic	11.0	11.1	11.0	-0.4	0.6	432.07	393.62	40.8	39.8	10.59	9.89
Service Producing	1,052.5	1,075.5	1,039.0	-2.1	1.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transp. Comm., & Util.	75.5	77.4	75.6	-2.5	-0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	54.0	56.0	53.7	-3.6	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trucking & Warehousing	16.1	17.6	17.1	-8.3	-6.0	395.89	395.96	30.5	31.5	12.98	12.57
Communication & Utilities	21.4	21.4	21.8	0.2	-1.7	609.55	568.88	38.8	37.9	15.71	15.01
Trade	320.8	333.7	324.9	-3.9	-1.3	274.05	258.08	29.0	28.9	9.45	8.93
Wholesale	81.6	83.2	82.9	-2.0	-1.6	472.00	439.76	37.7	36.8	12.52	11.95
Retail	239.2	250.4	242.0	-4.5	-1.1	214.37	202.99	26.4	26.5	8.12	7.66
Building Materials	9.8	10.1	10.1	-3.0	-2.2	383.77	378.38	35.6	36.7	10.78	10.31
General Merchandise	40.2	42.3	42.6	-5.0	-5.7	195.44	190.56	24.4	24.4	8.01	7.81
Food Stores	29.8	30.9	29.2	-3.8	1.9	262.13	251.02	28.4	28.3	9.23	8.87
Automotive	24.8	25.0	25.1	-0.6	-1.1	338.04	325.94	36.0	35.7	9.39	9.13
Appparel	13.4	14.5	14.0	-7.9	-4.8	123.35	115.17	19.8	19.1	6.23	6.03
Home Furnishings	10.7	11.4	11.1	-6.4	-3.6	318.86	288.81	29.8	29.5	10.70	9.79
Eating and Drinking	79.2	82.5	78.6	-4.0	0.7	147.35	131.90	22.6	23.1	6.52	5.71
Fin., Insur., Real Estate	96.5	97.2	96.0	-0.8	0.5						
Finance	40.6	40.6	41.2	0.1	-1.4						
Insurance	39.1	39.3	38.3	-0.5	2.0						
Real Estate	16.7	17.3	16.5	-3.5	1.6						
Services	370.5	375.8	358.3	-1.4	3.4						
Personal Services	17.8	18.1	17.6	-1.7	1.1						
Business Services	78.6	81.4	77.5	-3.5	1.4						
Repair Services	17.4	17.3	17.3	0.9	0.4						
Health Services	96.2	96.2	92.9	0.0	3.5						
Nursing Homes	22.7	22.9	22.6	-0.9	0.3						
Hospitals	33.9	33.8	33.1	0.3	2.4						
Legal Services	13.1	13.1	12.4	-0.2	5.0						
Private Education	19.1	19.8	18.2	-3.5	5.3						
Government	189.2	191.4	184.2	-1.1	2.7						
Federal	21.2	21.2	21.6	0.1	-1.6						
State	55.2	55.9	54.4	-1.3	1.4						
Education	31.3	32.0	30.6	-2.4	2.0						
Local	112.8	114.3	108.3	-1.3	4.2						
Education	60.8	62.6	59.1	-2.8	2.9						

Note: Not all industry sub-groups are shown for every major industry category.

1/ Totals may not add because of roundings.

2/ Average earnings data are on a "gross" basis and are derived from reports of payroll for full-time and part-time production or non-supervisory workers. The payroll is reported before deductions of any kind. Bonuses, retroactive pay, tips, payment in kind, and "fringe benefits" are excluded.

Southern Minnesota

LABOR FORCE DATA	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	Jan. 1991	Dec. 1990	Jan. 1990	Jan. 1991	Dec. 1990	Jan. 1990	Jan. 1991	Dec. 1990	Jan. 1990
REGION 6W	24,482	24,889	23,463	1,733	1,465	1,684	6.6	5.6	6.7
Big Stone	2,819	2,816	2,763	211	166	198	7.0	5.6	6.7
Chippewa	7,030	7,220	6,533	564	412	560	7.4	5.4	7.9
Lac Qui Parle	4,198	4,190	4,063	221	199	220	5.0	4.5	5.1
Swift	4,672	4,791	4,642	387	363	345	7.6	7.0	6.9
Yellow Medicine	5,763	5,872	5,457	350	325	361	5.7	5.2	6.2
REGION 8	62,652	63,200	59,758	3,409	3,368	3,296	5.2	5.1	5.2
Cottonwood	6,308	6,373	6,063	405	400	300	6.0	5.9	4.7
Jackson	5,722	5,701	5,333	321	322	280	5.3	5.3	5.0
Lincoln	3,324	3,404	3,166	252	239	255	7.0	6.6	7.5
Lyon	12,590	12,759	12,071	682	784	773	5.1	5.8	6.0
Murray	4,767	4,835	4,566	355	284	382	6.9	5.5	7.7
Nobles	12,338	12,364	11,495	477	503	434	3.7	3.9	3.6
Pipestone	4,984	5,013	5,014	340	302	317	6.4	5.7	5.9
Redwood	7,606	7,738	7,407	381	378	374	4.8	4.7	4.8
Rock	5,013	5,013	4,638	194	156	180	3.7	3.0	3.7
REGION 9	111,169	112,530	106,950	6,245	5,721	5,514	5.3	4.8	4.9
Blue Earth	28,894	29,081	28,073	1,070	1,103	1,020	3.6	3.7	3.5
Brown	13,959	14,223	13,211	917	722	801	6.2	4.8	5.7
Faribault	7,500	7,625	7,412	644	564	534	7.9	6.9	6.7
LeSueur	10,364	10,623	10,115	1,056	934	663	9.2	8.1	8.0
Martin	11,589	11,856	10,905	740	659	640	6.0	5.3	5.5
Nicollet	15,772	15,875	15,325	545	558	564	3.4	3.4	3.5
Sibley	6,895	6,948	6,663	523	453	508	7.1	6.1	7.1
Waseca	10,003	9,990	9,271	449	451	343	4.3	4.3	3.6
Watonwan	6,193	6,309	5,968	298	277	223	4.6	4.2	3.6
REGION 10	226,234	225,783	218,200	11,408	10,844	9,823	4.8	4.6	4.3
Dodge	8,040	8,233	7,953	688	609	546	7.9	6.9	6.4
Fillmore	9,879	9,990	9,476	739	591	637	7.0	5.6	6.3
Freeborn	16,064	15,361	16,301	1,330	1,429	1,098	7.6	8.5	6.3
Goodhue	21,929	21,855	21,046	1,014	968	894	4.4	4.2	4.1
Houston	9,690	9,634	9,237	522	419	496	5.1	4.2	5.1
Mower	18,214	18,221	17,030	810	786	787	4.3	4.1	4.4
Olmsted	64,298	63,833	60,939	2,068	2,117	1,923	3.1	3.2	3.1
Rice	27,710	28,001	26,841	1,412	1,342	1,158	4.8	4.6	4.1
Steele	16,378	16,295	15,730	811	731	554	4.7	4.3	3.4
Wabasha	8,069	8,357	8,030	626	552	596	7.2	6.2	6.9
Winona	25,963	26,003	25,617	1,386	1,300	1,134	5.1	4.8	4.2
Rochester City	40,003	39,714	37,913	1,414	1,451	1,291	3.4	3.5	3.3

ROCHESTER MSA NONFARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT

Industry	Employment			% Change From	
	Jan. 1991	Dec. 1990	Jan. 1990	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	66,256	66,767	63,480	-0.8	4.4
Goods Producing	13,727	13,927	13,626	-1.4	0.7
Construction and Mining	2,021	2,197	1,906	-8.0	6.0
Manufacturing	11,706	11,730	11,720	-0.2	-0.1
Durable Goods	9,861	9,889	9,954	-0.3	-0.9
Nondurable Goods	1,845	1,841	1,766	0.2	4.5
Service Producing	52,529	52,840	49,854	-0.6	5.4
Transp., Comm., & Util.	1,892	1,921	1,867	-1.5	1.3
Trade	13,448	13,909	12,705	-3.3	5.8
Wholesale	1,592	1,602	1,513	-0.6	5.2
Retail	11,856	12,307	11,192	-3.7	5.9
Finan., Insur., & Re. Estate	1,807	1,786	1,737	1.2	4.0
Services	28,485	28,275	27,021	0.7	5.4
Health	19,295	19,169	18,199	0.7	6.0
Other Services	9,190	9,106	8,822	0.9	4.2
Government	6,897	6,949	6,524	-0.7	5.7

Unemployment Rates Barely Rise Over Last January's

Unemployment rates in southern Minnesota barely budged since December or last January. The Rochester MSA's rate for January has been the same since 1988 (3.1%).

Although employment dipped a little over the month, every region gained workers over the year. Southern Minnesota, particularly the Rochester MSA, probably remains Minnesota's least recession-affected area.

The Rochester MSA's nonfarm payroll employment normally drops between December, however, and this year was no exception. The loss of 511 jobs was normal. The remaining 66,256 MSA nonfarm jobs pushed January's employment level up a strong 2,776 over the year. That 4.4% increase helps substantiates that the Rochester area still is relatively immune to the recession.

The industries in the MSA that created jobs fastest over the year were retail trade, health services, government, and construction/ mining. Each added about six percent more jobs over the year. With the exception of construction/ mining, all the job gains were in service-producing industries.

Construction/mining and retail trade were the only industries in the MSA to lose a significant percentage of their jobs over the month, and these were seasonal--retail trade almost always leaning down after the holidays.

By Ron Daws

Central and Northwest Minnesota

LABOR FORCE DATA

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	Jan. 1991	Dec. 1990	Jan. 1990	Jan. 1991	Dec. 1990	Jan. 1990	Jan. 1991	Dec. 1990	Jan. 1990
REGION 1	**41,436**	**42,363**	**40,029**	**5,392**	**4,843**	**4,407**	**11.5**	**10.3**	**9.9**
Kittson	2,475	2,491	2,361	291	272	291	10.5	9.8	11.0
Marshall	4,590	4,625	4,453	1,118	939	941	19.6	16.9	17.4
Norman	3,512	3,570	3,429	324	271	298	8.4	7.1	8.0
Pennington	6,385	7,017	6,172	948	755	761	12.9	9.7	11.0
Polk	14,137	14,398	13,965	1,174	1,048	1,075	7.7	6.8	7.1
Red Lake	1,420	1,465	1,341	395	311	393	21.8	17.5	22.7
Roseau	8,917	8,797	8,308	1,142	1,247	648	11.4	12.4	7.2
REGION 2	**30,450**	**30,419**	**29,249**	**3,393**	**2,784**	**2,952**	**10.0**	**8.4**	**9.2**
Beltrami	16,516	16,461	15,649	1,265	1,115	1,098	7.1	6.3	6.6
Clearwater	3,128	3,163	3,083	922	658	799	22.8	17.2	20.6
Hubbard	6,308	6,408	6,219	817	674	704	11.5	9.5	10.2
Lake of Woods	2,054	2,036	1,916	82	76	93	3.8	3.6	4.6
Mahnomen	2,444	2,351	2,382	307	261	258	11.2	10.0	9.8
REGION 4	**96,889**	**98,004**	**93,036**	**7,554**	**6,397**	**6,609**	**7.2**	**6.1**	**6.6**
Becker	13,262	13,504	12,804	1,284	1,177	1,232	8.8	8.0	8.8
Clay	25,366	25,550	24,185	1,905	1,213	1,276	7.0	4.5	5.0
Douglas	15,243	15,302	14,828	954	891	903	5.9	5.5	5.7
Grant	3,017	3,023	2,856	292	246	257	8.8	7.5	8.3
Otter Tail	24,840	25,175	23,509	2,096	1,922	1,994	7.8	7.1	7.8
Pope	4,657	4,887	4,520	382	378	352	7.6	7.2	7.2
Stevens	5,111	5,195	5,008	291	253	268	5.4	4.5	5.1
Traverse	2,098	2,121	2,004	154	135	156	6.8	6.0	7.2
Wilkin	3,295	3,247	3,322	196	182	171	5.6	5.3	4.9
REGION 5	**57,197**	**58,256**	**55,940**	**6,264**	**5,698**	**5,704**	**9.9**	**8.9**	**9.3**
Cass	7,849	7,919	7,555	1,167	998	1,080	12.9	11.2	12.5
Crow Wing	20,304	20,867	20,184	1,823	1,618	1,771	8.2	7.2	8.1
Morrison	13,594	13,708	13,237	1,691	1,576	1,435	11.1	10.3	9.8
Todd	10,699	10,981	10,225	1,072	1,010	956	9.1	8.4	8.6
Wadena	4,751	4,781	4,739	511	496	462	9.7	9.4	8.9
REGION 6E	**54,482**	**54,852**	**52,354**	**3,686**	**3,305**	**3,244**	**6.3**	**5.7**	**5.8**
Kandiyohi	20,370	20,569	19,449	1,126	972	943	5.2	4.5	4.6
McLeod	16,753	16,877	16,348	958	878	861	5.4	4.9	5.0
Meeker	8,730	8,768	8,229	1,009	888	803	10.4	9.2	8.9
Renville	8,629	8,638	8,328	593	567	637	6.4	6.2	7.1
REGION 7E	**50,596**	**50,966**	**49,501**	**5,503**	**4,811**	**4,902**	**9.8**	**8.6**	**9.0**
Chisago	14,014	14,106	13,802	1,447	1,224	1,353	9.4	8.0	8.9
Isanti	11,866	11,944	11,687	1,119	974	891	8.6	7.5	7.1
Kanabec	5,137	5,165	5,194	752	703	711	12.8	12.0	12.0
Mille Lacs	10,068	10,142	9,581	901	802	804	8.2	7.3	7.7
Pine	9,511	9,609	9,237	1,284	1,108	1,143	11.9	10.3	11.0
REGION 7W	**130,144**	**128,156**	**127,196**	**10,133**	**9,053**	**8,905**	**7.2**	**6.6**	**6.5**
Benton	15,406	15,059	15,019	1,207	1,121	1,081	7.3	6.9	6.7
Sherburne	18,934	18,507	18,457	1,741	1,767	1,346	8.4	8.7	6.8
Stearns	63,348	61,920	61,754	4,039	3,402	3,956	6.0	5.2	6.0
Wright	32,456	32,670	31,966	3,146	2,763	2,522	8.8	7.8	7.3
St. Cloud MSA	97,688	95,487	95,230	6,987	6,290	6,385	6.7	6.2	6.3

ST. CLOUD MSA NONFARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT

Industry	Employment			% Change From	
	Jan. 1991	Dec. 1990	Jan. 1990	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	**78,417**	**80,603**	**76,978**	**-2.7**	**1.9**
Goods Producing	**17,136**	**17,831**	**16,502**	**-3.9**	**3.8**
Construction and Mining	2,589	3,323	2,941	-22.1	-12.0
Manufacturing	14,547	14,508	13,561	0.3	7.3
Durable Goods	8,434	8,304	8,125	1.6	3.8
Nondurable Goods	6,113	6,204	5,436	-1.5	12.5
Service Producing	**61,281**	**62,772**	**60,476**	**-2.4**	**1.3**
Transp., Comm., & Util.	3,845	3,917	3,730	-1.8	3.1
Trade	23,228	24,118	23,466	-3.7	-1.0
Wholesale	3,656	3,652	3,631	0.1	0.7
Retail	19,572	20,466	19,835	-4.4	-1.3
Finan., Insur., & Re. Estate	2,509	2,532	2,443	-0.9	2.7
Services	18,012	18,374	17,195	-2.0	4.8
Health	6,017	5,986	5,465	0.5	10.1
Other Services	11,995	12,388	11,730	-3.2	2.3
Government	13,687	13,831	13,642	-1.0	0.3

Unemployment Rates Creeping Upward

Unemployment rates seem to be rising. In the St. Cloud MSA, for example, the January unemployment rate has been equal to or higher than the previous January's since 1988. Job growth during January tapered off in 1990 and 1991.

The rise in unemployment rates between December and January is largely seasonal, but rates this year have also been higher than the same months last year. While labor force data is imprecise, when trends persist over time, they warrant notice.

One noticeable development is that while the St. Cloud MSA's employment grew by 2.6% over the year, growth in the rest of the regions averaged 3.4%. Is the St. Cloud area losing some of its ability to lure jobs and business away from surrounding rural areas? Future statistics will tell.

Establishment-based payroll job figures tell much the same story. Jobs in the St. Cloud MSA dropped by 2,196 between December and January, about normal for this time of the year. The increase over January 1990, however, at 1.9% or 1,439 jobs, was less than it has been. Over the past four years, payroll jobs have risen an average of five percent over the previous January. This continues the trend of smaller over-the-year increases begun early in 1990.

Construction/mining employed 352 fewer workers this January than last January, and the loss of 305 general merchandising jobs (that netted 263 fewer jobs across the whole retail trade sector) were the main reasons.

Countering those losses was a strong influx of 12.5% more nondurable goods manufacturing jobs, and 10.1% more health service jobs over the year. Combined, these two industries accounted for 1,219 of the 1,439 additional payroll jobs the MSA added.

By Ron Daws

Northeast Minnesota

Unemployment Rates Edge Upward While Employment Growth Slows

Unemployment rates continue to rise over comparable year-ago levels although the region and Duluth still seems able to create jobs. Total employment was up 2.4% over the year in Region 3. Duluth's total employment was up 3.5%, but the more reliable indicator-- nonfarm payroll jobs--was up only 0.9% over the year. Over the month, unemployment rates rose across the region, but most of this was seasonal.

The slight drop in Duluth's nonfarm payroll jobs over the month was in line with past years, but the 449 or 0.9% gain over the year was weak. It may be that Duluth's ability to create jobs is bowing to recessionary pressures. Still, Duluth has made exemplary job gains in several industries. Between 1986 and 1990, both the nondurable goods manufacturing and the services industries added about one-quarter more jobs. Between January 1990 and January 1991, nondurable goods manufacturing increased another 6.5%, and services added 5.9% more jobs.

Other strong job creators between 1986 and 1990 have been transportation/communications/ utilities (up 13.1%), and retail trade (up 10.6%). Between January 1990 and January 1991, transportation/ communications/utilities lost 3.6% of its jobs, and trade added 4.1% more of them.

Since December, Duluth lost jobs fastest in nondurable goods manufacturing (down 4.4%), and retail trade (down 3.2%). The drop in retail trade eliminated 340 jobs over the month.

By Ron Daws

LABOR FORCE DATA

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	Jan. 1991	Dec. 1990	Jan. 1990	Jan. 1991	Dec. 1990	Jan. 1990	Jan. 1991	Dec. 1990	Jan. 1990
REGION 3	138,239	139,476	134,804	11,306	9,956	10,144	7.6	6.7	7.0
Aitkin	5,090	5,143	4,889	699	632	666	12.1	10.9	12.0
Carlton	12,387	12,728	11,842	1,109	960	1,012	8.2	7.0	7.9
Cook	2,532	2,477	2,444	209	184	255	7.6	6.9	9.4
Itasca	16,550	17,045	16,045	1,782	1,508	1,730	9.7	8.1	9.7
Koochiching	8,504	8,620	9,363	843	708	406	9.0	7.6	4.2
Lake	4,015	4,260	4,091	454	375	300	10.2	8.1	6.8
St. Louis	89,161	89,203	86,130	6,210	5,589	5,775	6.5	5.9	6.3
City of Duluth	38,708	38,727	37,392	2,156	1,913	1,883	5.3	4.7	4.8
Balance St. Louis	50,453	50,476	48,738	4,054	3,676	3,892	7.4	6.8	7.4

DULUTH & DULUTH-SUPERIOR MSA NONFARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT

Industry	DULUTH					DULUTH SUPERIOR				
	Employment			% Change From		Employment			% Change From	
	Jan. 1991	Dec. 1990	Jan. 1990	Month Ago	Year Ago	Jan. 1991	Dec. 1990	Jan. 1990	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	49,312	50,145	48,863	-1.7	0.9	97,236	98,690	94,763	-1.5	2.6
Goods Producing	5,498	5,683	5,592	-3.3	-1.7	16,442	17,003	16,498	-3.3	-0.3
Mining	Small combined with construction					5,302	5,395	5,286	-1.7	0.3
Construction	1,489	1,538	1,399	-3.2	6.4	2,794	3,148	2,971	-11.2	-6.0
Manufacturing	4,009	4,145	4,193	-3.3	-4.4	8,346	8,460	8,241	-1.3	1.3
Durable Goods	1,644	1,671	1,543	-1.6	6.5	4,483	4,479	4,243	0.1	5.7
Nondurable Goods	2,365	2,474	2,650	-4.4	-10.8	3,863	3,981	3,998	-3.0	-3.4
Service Producing	43,814	44,462	43,271	-1.5	1.3	80,794	81,687	78,265	-1.1	3.2
Transp., Comm., & Util.	2,983	3,016	3,096	-1.1	-3.6	5,969	6,031	5,732	-1.0	4.1
Trade	12,017	12,348	11,622	-2.7	3.4	24,400	24,808	23,584	-1.6	3.5
Wholesale	1,869	1,860	1,872	0.5	-0.2	3,868	3,868	3,801	0.0	1.8
Retail	10,148	10,488	9,750	-3.2	4.1	20,532	20,940	19,783	-1.9	3.8
Finan., Insur., & Re. Estate	1,918	1,945	1,948	-1.4	-1.5	3,215	3,249	3,192	-1.0	0.7
Services	14,756	14,951	14,246	-1.3	3.6	24,945	25,183	23,784	-0.9	4.9
Health	6,110	6,168	5,768	-0.9	5.9	9,982	10,081	9,424	-1.0	5.9
Other Services	8,646	8,783	8,478	-1.6	2.0	14,963	15,102	14,360	-0.9	4.2
Government	12,140	12,202	12,359	-0.5	-1.8	22,265	22,416	21,973	-0.7	1.3

Research Summaries

Index of "Review" Topics

For the benefit of readers who would like to reference topics covered in past issues of the "**Review**", we list them below. Because labor market information tends to become outdated relatively quickly, we have restricted the list to the past two years' publications. To get copies of past issues, please phone (612) 296-6545 or write to the Research and Statistics Office at the address on the back cover.

FEATURE TITLES:

FEB 89	**The Race Between Wage And Price Hikes: Who's Winning?**
MAY 89	**Minnesota's Dislocated Workers**
AUG 89	**Labor Shortages: Crisis Or Crying Wolf**
NOV 89	**Minnesota Careers** (Describes a new guide to 200 careers. For students and others making career plans).
FEB 90	**1989: Annual Average Unemployment Rate And Industry Data**
JUN 90	**Helping The Unemployed Get Back To Work**
SEP 90	**Minnesota Job Trends In The 80's**
DEC 90	**Clear As Mud** (Discusses how and why the total employment series and the nonfarm payroll job series often don't agree).

OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK:

MAY 89	**The Employment Outlook In Minnesota's Regions**
AUG 89	**Do Future Jobs Really Require More Education?**
NOV 89	**Jobs In Fast Growth, Pretty-Well-Paying Industries**
FEB 90	**Update: Computer Industries, Occupations**
JUN 90	**Want Work In The Public Sector?**
SEP 90	**Is A High School Education Enough?**
DEC 90	**Occupational Trends In Unemployment**

RESEARCH SUMMARIES:

FEB 89	**Refiguring The Unemployment Figures**
MAY 89	**Job Gains Among States**
NOV 89	**1988 Economic Conditions Strong In The Twin Cities Metropolitan Area**
FEB 90	**Economic Conditions In Northeastern Minnesota**
SEP 90	**High Skill, High Wages, High Productivity, Or...**
DEC 90	**Worker Dislocation: The Human Cost Of Change**

Feature Article

1990: Annual Labor Force Highlights

The U.S. unemployment rate averaged 5.5% in 1990. Unemployment rose in the second half of the year.

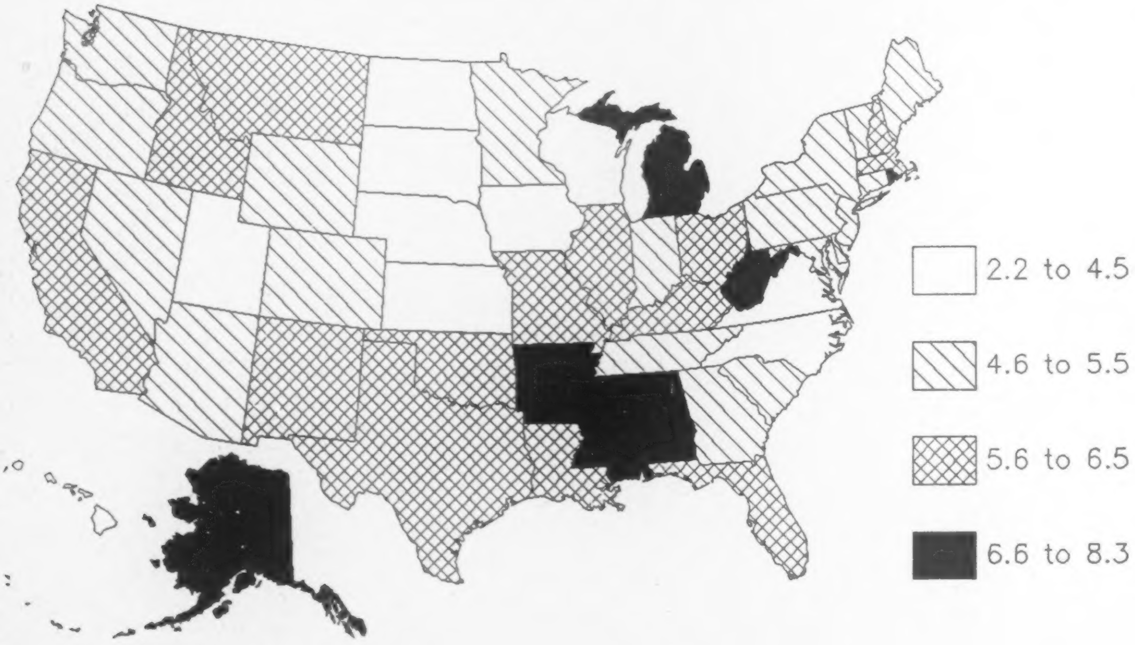
The increase of 0.2 of a percentage point in the U.S. jobless rate since 1989 occurred mostly among teens and adult men. The 1990 rate for teens was 15.5; adult men 4.9; adult women 4.8; Whites 4.7; Blacks 11.3; and Hispanics 8.0.

The 1990 national unemployment rate ranged from 2.3 for government and self-employed workers to 11.1% for construction. The rate rose most for construction, up from 10% last year.

National unemployment rates among occupations ranged from 1.9% for professional specialty occupations to 18.1% for construction laborers in 1990.

For the second consecutive year, the unemployment rate increased most in the New England states. It decreased most in Louisiana and Washington. Compared to 1989, 27 states and the District of Columbia had higher unemployment rates in 1990; 20 states had lower rates; 3 were unchanged.

1990 State Unemployment Rates



LABOR FORCE DATA: MINNESOTA, MSAs, REGIONS & COUNTIES

Area or County	Annual Average 1990			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemp Rate
MINNESOTA	2,404,000	2,288,000	116,000	4.8
REGION 1	45,277	41,693	3,584	7.9
Kittson	2,678	2,451	227	8.5
Marshall	5,249	4,566	683	13.0
Norman	3,776	3,530	246	6.5
Pennington	7,233	6,630	603	8.3
Polk	15,258	14,147	1,111	7.3
Red Lake	1,750	1,464	286	16.3
Roseau	9,333	8,905	428	4.6
REGION 2	33,176	30,670	2,506	7.6
Beltrami	17,242	16,206	1,036	6.0
Clearwater	3,812	3,254	558	14.6
Hubbard	7,522	6,901	621	8.3
Lake of Woods	2,047	1,972	75	3.7
Mahnomen	2,553	2,337	216	8.5
REGION 3	149,370	139,509	9,861	6.6
Aitkin	5,654	5,107	547	9.7
Carlton	13,317	12,366	951	7.1
Cook	2,854	2,662	192	6.7
Itasca	18,345	16,674	1,671	9.1
Koochiching	10,721	10,136	585	5.5
Lake	4,667	4,338	329	7.0
St. Louis	93,812	88,226	5,586	6.0
Duluth-Superior MSA	119,293	112,815	6,478	5.4
Duluth	40,400	38,302	2,098	5.2
Balance St. Louis	53,412	49,924	3,488	6.5
REGION 4	102,436	96,991	5,445	5.3
Becker	14,564	13,554	1,010	6.9
Clay	26,039	24,958	1,081	4.2
Douglas	15,979	15,187	792	5.0
Grant	3,155	2,943	212	6.7
Otter Tail	26,611	25,047	1,564	5.9
Pope	5,035	4,713	322	6.4
Stevens	5,322	5,140	182	3.4
Traverse	2,221	2,103	118	5.3
Wilkin	3,510	3,346	164	4.7
REGION 5	64,081	59,090	4,991	7.8
Cass	9,317	8,412	905	9.7
Crow Wing	22,947	21,519	1,428	6.2
Morrison	15,132	13,780	1,352	8.9
Todd	11,507	10,625	882	7.7
Wadena	5,178	4,754	424	8.2
REGION 6E	57,500	54,524	2,976	5.2
Kandiyohi	21,002	20,151	851	4.1
McLeod	17,746	16,905	841	4.7
Meeker	9,262	8,550	712	7.7
Renville	9,490	8,918	572	6.0
REGION 6W	25,532	24,347	1,185	4.6
Big Stone	2,976	2,832	144	4.8
Chippewa	7,296	6,947	349	4.8
Lac Qui Parle	4,261	4,091	170	4.0
Swift	5,016	4,750	266	5.3
Yellow Medicine	5,983	5,727	256	4.3
REGION 7E	55,129	51,007	4,122	7.5
Chisago	15,103	14,012	1,091	7.2
Isanti	12,654	11,864	790	6.2
Kanabec	5,950	5,309	641	10.8
Mille Lacs	10,700	10,045	655	6.1
Pine	10,722	9,777	945	8.8
REGION 7W	135,666	127,768	7,898	5.8
Benton	16,053	15,032	1,021	6.4
Sherburne	19,803	18,474	1,329	6.7
Stearns	65,246	61,810	3,436	5.3
Wright	34,564	32,452	2,112	6.1
St. Cloud MSA	101,102	95,316	5,786	5.7
St. Cloud	27,938	26,353	1,585	5.7
REGION 8	64,476	61,538	2,938	4.6
Cottonwood	6,538	6,120	418	6.4
Jackson	5,839	5,554	285	4.9
Lincoln	3,439	3,248	191	5.6
Lyon	13,037	12,478	559	4.3
Murray	5,070	4,801	269	5.3
Nobles	12,314	11,903	411	3.3
Pipestone	5,363	5,047	316	5.9
Redwood	7,901	7,573	328	4.2
Rock	4,975	4,814	161	3.2
REGION 9	115,503	110,607	4,896	4.2
Blue Earth	29,176	28,239	937	3.2
Brown	14,548	13,923	625	4.3
Faribault	8,150	7,706	444	5.4
LeSueur	11,658	10,906	752	6.5
Martin	12,238	11,632	606	5.0
Nicollet	15,952	15,415	537	3.4
Sibley	7,250	6,858	392	5.4
Waseca	10,173	9,802	371	3.6
Watonwan	6,358	6,126	232	3.6
REGION 10	233,434	222,941	10,493	4.5
Dodge	8,664	8,187	477	5.5
Fillmore	10,289	9,738	551	5.4
Freeborn	17,247	15,406	1,841	10.7
Goodhue	22,304	21,407	897	4.0
Houston	9,934	9,540	394	4.0
Mower	18,469	17,694	775	4.2
Olmsted	64,983	62,888	2,095	3.2
Rice	28,703	27,576	1,127	3.9
Steele	16,732	16,105	627	3.7
Wabasha	8,988	8,496	492	5.5
Winona	27,121	25,904	1,217	4.5
Rochester	40,617	39,126	1,491	3.7
REGION 11	1,322,425	1,267,319	55,106	4.2
Anoka	136,942	130,338	6,604	4.8
Carver	25,329	24,286	1,043	4.1
Dakota	148,754	142,732	6,022	4.0
Hennepin	625,152	599,643	25,509	4.1
Ramsey	279,450	268,152	11,298	4.0
Scott	30,224	28,714	1,510	5.0
Washington	76,574	73,454	3,120	4.1
Chisago*	15,103	14,012	1,091	7.2
Isanti*	12,654	11,864	790	6.2
Wright*	34,564	32,452	2,112	6.1
St. Croix, WI	25,481	24,589	892	3.5
MINNEAPOLIS ST. PAUL MSA	1,410,227	1,350,236	59,991	4.3
Bloomington	58,516	56,217	2,299	3.9
Minneapolis	207,165	197,750	9,415	4.5
St. Paul	145,191	138,259	6,932	4.8

* These counties are part of the Twin-Cities MSA and Regions 7-E and 7-W.

Industry Employment Trends

- Total nonfarm payroll jobs in Minnesota increased by 1.9%, the slowest annual rate of growth since 1986 when it increased by only 1.5%.

- With the exception of manufacturing, the average number of jobs increased in all major industry categories. Nearly 8 out of every 10 additional jobs were in the service or government industries.

- Manufacturing jobs declined slightly in 1990. The loss was concentrated again in the Twin Cities metropolitan area computer industry which trimmed nearly 5,100 jobs, or 18.2% of its workforce. Job growth in most nondurable-goods manufacturing firms, particularly food, paper and printing, could not offset cutbacks in the computer industry. Most other durable-goods industries experienced small decreases, but electronic equipment and scientific and medical instruments added jobs.

- Mining grew faster than other major industries in 1990 but the number of jobs remains about 45% lower than in 1981.

- Job growth in the services industry slowed from an annual pace of 5.9% in 1989 to 4.0% in 1990. Business service growth slowed precipitously from 8.7% in 1989 to 1.8% in 1990. Most of this was due to a sharp drop in personnel supply services, including temporary help agencies.

- Health care services added the most jobs (6,300) while social services, private education, and amusement services grew fastest, over 6.0%.

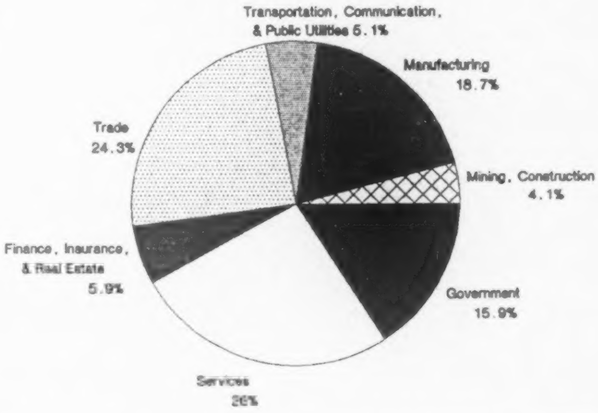
- Construction and trade employment was essentially unchanged in 1990 from a year ago. Job growth in Greater Minnesota offset job losses in the Minnespolis-St. Paul MSA.

- Transportation and utility industry employment continued to grow in 1990, but the pace slowed substantially by the end of the tear due to the recession and war's impact on business and vacation airline travel.

- Government jobs increased by about 3.0% in 1990, slightly faster than a year earlier due to the hiring of temporary Census workers and job growth in state and local public administration.

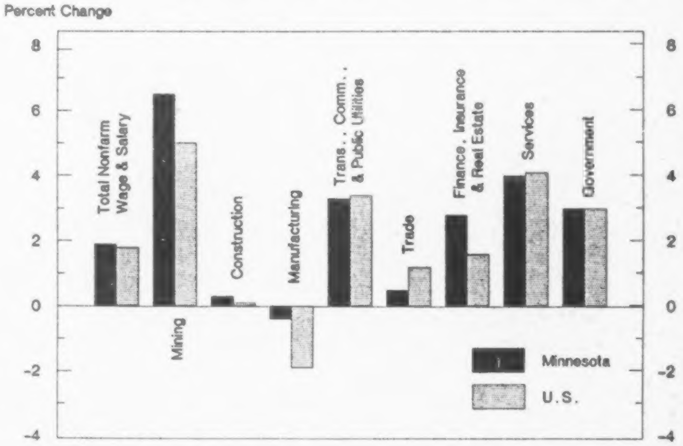
By Bruce Steuernagel

1990 Minnesota Employment Distribution by Industry



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Minnesota Department of Jobs and Training

Percent Change in Employment by Major Industry Minnesota and U.S., 1989-1990



Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

	United States		Minnesota		Mpls.-St. Paul MSA	
	EMPLOYMENT 1990 (000's)	PERCENT CHANGE 1989-90	EMPLOYMENT 1990 (000's)	PERCENT CHANGE 1989-90	EMPLOYMENT 1990 (000's)	PERCENT CHANGE 1989-90
TOTAL, ALL INDUSTRIES	110,330	1.8	2,126.4	1.9	1,370.0	1.5
MANUFACTURING	19,064	-1.9	398.3	-0.4	260.5	-1.6
DURABLE	11,124	-2.6	229.4	-2.4	155.4	-4.1
NONDURABLE	7,941	0.8	168.9	2.5	105.1	2.4
NONMANUFACTURING	91,266	2.6	1,728.1	2.4	1,109.5	2.2
MINING	735	5.0	8.2	5.5	0.6	0.0
CONSTRUCTION	5,205	0.1	79.3	0.3	49.8	-2.7
TCPU	5,838	3.4	108.7	0.3	76.7	3.5
TRADE	26,151	1.2	516.7	0.5	329.2	-0.2
WHOLESALE	6,361	1.4	125.7	-0.3	83.9	-1.6
RETAIL	19,790	1.1	391.0	0.7	245.4	0.3
FIRE	6,833	1.6	124.4	2.8	96.9	3.0
SERVICES	28,209	4.1	552.5	4.0	369.8	4.0
GOVERNMENT	18,295	3.0	338.4	3.0	186.3	3.3

	Duluth-Superior		St. Cloud MSA		Rochester MSA	
	EMPLOYMENT 1990 (000's)	PERCENT CHANGE 1989-90	EMPLOYMENT 1990 (000's)	PERCENT CHANGE 1989-90	EMPLOYMENT 1990 (000's)	PERCENT CHANGE 1989-90
TOTAL, ALL INDUSTRIES	98.0	2.6	78.7	1.3	65.9	4.1
MANUFACTURING	8.5	1.2	14.5	0.7	12.0	1.7
DURABLE	4.5	2.3	8.4	2.4	10.1	3.1
NONDURABLE	4.0	0.0	6.1	-1.6	1.9	0.0
NONMANUFACTURING	89.5	2.8	64.2	1.4	53.9	4.7
MINING AND CONSTRUCT.	8.9	2.3	3.8	2.7	2.3	4.5
TCPU	6.0	3.4	3.9	2.6	1.9	0.0
TRADE	24.5	2.5	23.2	-1.7	13.4	3.9
WHOLESALE	3.9	2.6	3.7	2.8	1.6	14.3
RETAIL	20.7	3.0	19.5	-2.5	11.7	1.7
FIRE	3.2	0.0	2.4	0.0	1.8	12.5
SERVICES	24.7	2.5	17.9	5.3	27.9	4.9
GOVERNMENT	22.1	3.3	13.0	1.6	6.7	6.3

Top Ten Fastest Growing Industries
(Employment In Thousands)

Range	Industry	1989 Employment	1988-89 Percent Change
1.	Museums and Miscellaneous Services	2.6	12.2
2.	Water, Air, Pipeline Trans. and Trans. Ser.	29.8	11.6
3.	Metal Mining	6.4	8.1
4.	Social Services	48.4	7.3
5.	Membership Organizations	47.8	7.0
6.	Leather and Leather Products	2.0	6.9
7.	Building Construction-General Contractors	21.7	6.8
8.	Private Education Services	32.1	6.5
9.	Miscellaneous Repair Services	5.8	6.5
10.	Motion Pictures	6.4	6.3

Top Ten Industries Adding Most Jobs
(Employment In Thousands)

Range	Industry	1989 Employment	1988-89 Numerical Change
1.	Health Services	166.9	6.3
2.	Local Government	220.0	6.2
3.	Social Services	48.4	3.3
4.	Membership Organizations	47.8	3.1
5.	Water, Air, Pipeline Trans. and Trans. Ser.	29.8	3.1
6.	State Government	83.2	2.5
7.	Eating and Drinking Places	131.8	2.4
8.	Private and Publishing	52.1	2.0
9.	Food Stores	54.4	2.0
10.	Private Educational Services	32.1	2.0

Occupational Outlook

So...You Want to Be a Teacher?

The competition for teaching positions in Minnesota has intensified over the past few years. The reason is that there are far more teachers searching for jobs than schools can absorb.

Since at least 1986, the number of teachers in Minnesota has grown as enrollment increased (see Figure 1). The demand for teachers should continue to increase because of projected school-age population growth. In fact, projections list teaching as one of the biggest growing occupations.

Still, the supply of teachers in Minnesota is much larger than the demand. The state's teachers are hired from three sources: a reserve pool of former teachers, recent Minnesota college graduates, and teachers from other states. Approximately 2,000 teachers from outside the state apply for licenses in Minnesota every year. And an increasing number of teaching students graduate every year hoping to enter the field. All of this points to a huge surplus of teachers. To show how large the surplus is, there are 92,500 people who hold unexpired licenses to teach in Minnesota, while only 45,000 or 49% are employed as teachers (see Figure 2).

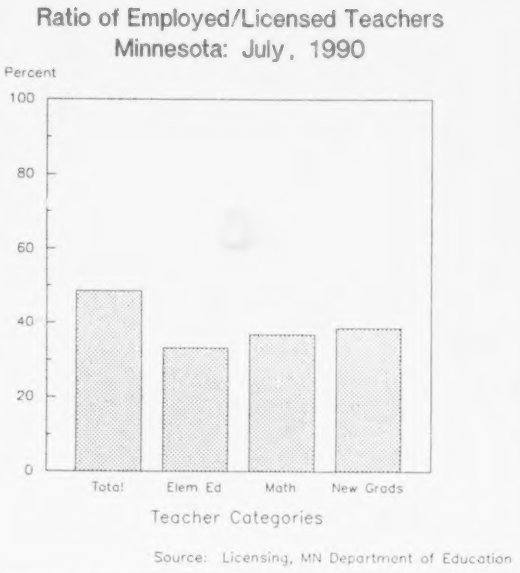
Why are more and more students entering an increasingly saturated teaching market, as Figure 3 shows? There are a number of possible reasons. One is that teachers' hourly wages are very competitive when compared to other professional fields. Also, a student would be misled by looking exclusively at the demand for teachers, if they were not aware

Figure 1.

Minnesota Public Schools for Grades K-12					
School Year	'86-'87	'87-'88	'88-'89	'89-'90	'90-'91
Students	711,134	721,481	726,950	739,553	751,913
Teachers	40,957	42,132	42,750	43,101	43,771
Students per Teacher	17.4	17.1	17.0	17.2	17.2

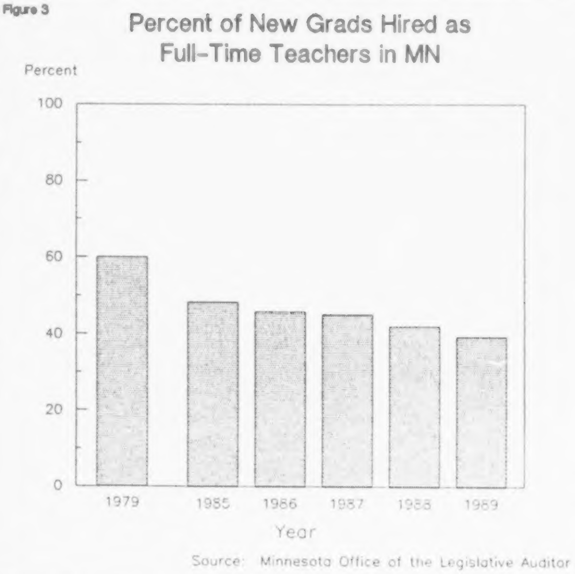
Source: National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education.

Figure 2


Ratio of Employed/Licensed Teachers
Minnesota: July, 1990

Source: Licensing, MN Department of Education

Figure 3


Percent of New Grads Hired as
Full-Time Teachers in MN

Source: Minnesota Office of the Legislative Auditor

of the overwhelming supply. The number of applications per opening illustrates the intense competition. In Minnesota in 1990, there were 73 applications per opening for an Elementary Education teaching position. Some subjects fare better than others, however. For instance, there is less competition for Foreign Language and Special Ed positions: only about 14 applications per opening.

This article is not meant to discourage students who want to be teachers from pursuing their dreams, but only to warn them that they can expect tough competition in getting hired. Southern and western United States might provide better opportunities for teachers than Minnesota does. There is, however, a high demand for minority and bilingual teachers in Minnesota. Also, as mentioned above, it is easier to get jobs in some fields than in others. With growing enrollment expected for at least the next five years, and with more teachers retiring in the late 1990's, the present surplus might diminish in the future.

For this study the following sources were consulted: Minnesota Department of Jobs and Training, Minnesota Department of Education, Minnesota Office of the Legislative Auditor, National Center for Educational Statistics, and the Higher Education Coordinating Board.

By Sue Borgfelt and Tom Nash

Offical Business
Penality for Private Use $300

Minnesota Labor Market Review

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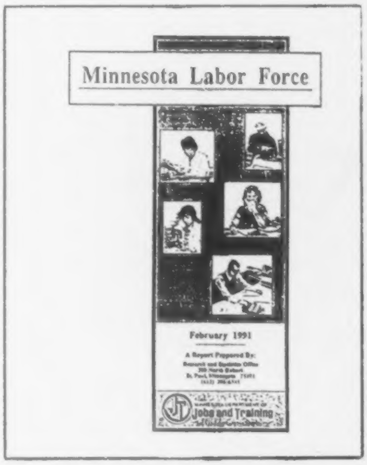
Minnesota Labor Force presents statewide information for the second half of the 1980s. It looks at many features of the Minnesota workforce.

- growth over time
- composition by age, race, gender and marital status
- labor force participation
- industry employment and unemployment rates
- reasons for unemployment
- duration of unemployment
- occupational employment and unemployment rates

Based on data from the Current Population Survey, the report also compares Minnesota to the United States for many of these features.

Copies are available by calling the Research and Statistics Office reception desk at (612) 296-6545.



Minnesota Labor Force

February 1991

A Report Prepared By:

Jobs and Training

The Minnesota Labor Market Review is published monthly (with expanded quarterly issues) by the Research and Statistics Office of the Minnesota Department of Jobs and Training.

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Minnesota Labor Market Review

April 1991

Minnesota

Job Losses at Large Employers Prompt Surge in Unemployment Rate

Recession struck Minnesota with a vengeance in February, sparked by employment losses at several large employers. Consequently, the unemployment rate shot up to 6.6%, highest for that month since 1984.

The number of seasonally adjusted jobs peaked last October, but declined by less than 4,000 over the next three months. This was nowhere near the U.S. drop. Had the state shed jobs at the national rate, losses would have been over 12,000. With retail sales and hours worked holding steady, there was no downturn -- just stagnation.

In February that changed. Events at four firms simultaneously reduced employment, accounting for about three-fourths of the 6,400 job loss. A short-lived strike at ordnance supplier Alliant Techsystems during the survey week reduced jobs in durable goods manufacturing. It coincided with large layoffs at Ford and Andersen -- repercussions of a weak national market for motor vehicles and houses. Northwest Air also announced reductions in its work-force as travel subsided during the Gulf War. Therefore, initial claims for unemployment insurance remained high, with many claimants experiencing their second bout of unemployment within a year.

Current Labor Force Estimates

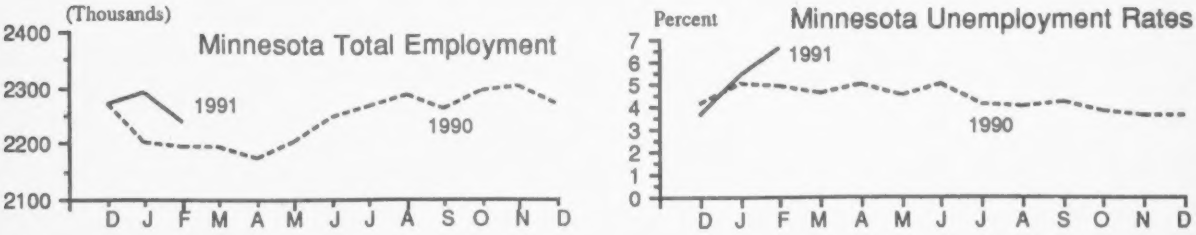
	Minnesota (In Thousands)			% Change From		United States (In Thousands)			% Change From	
	Feb 91	Jan 91	Feb 90	Jan 91	Feb 90	Feb 91	Jan 91	Feb 90	Jan 91	Feb 90
Labor Force	2394.8	2421.2	2354.4	- 1.1	1.7	124,070	123,585	123,442	0.4	0.5
Employment	2237.9	2290.6	2230.5	-2.3	0.3	115,151	114,990	116,308	0.1	-1.0
Unemployment	156.9	130.6	123.9	20.2	26.6	8,919	8,595	7,134	3.8	25.0
Actual Unemp. Rate	6.6	5.4	5.3			7.2	7.0	5.8		
Seasonally Adj. Rate	-	-	-			6.5	6.2	5.3		

Even with the February shock, jobs dropped far less since peaking in October than they did during any of the last three recessions. The loss was, in fact, one-third of what it was during the mildest recession, the brief downturn in the first half of 1980. As before, there is a wide variation in how industries fare. Jobs in manufacturing and construction peaked one year ago, well ahead of the recession's start. By last summer, transportation, utilities and trade followed suit. Meanwhile, employment in services and government kept growing and is at an all-time high.

The U.S. experienced similar industry patterns over the past year, but with more widespread declines in the goods-producing sector. As a result, the nation has fewer jobs than it did a year ago, unlike Minnesota which has more. Economies in Midwestern states, especially Nebraska, the Dakotas and Wisconsin, have held up better than nationally. Compared to its neighbors, Minnesota's job market looks sluggish, but against most states it shines.

By Don Hilber

Minnesota Employment and Unemployment Rates - 1990 and 1991



Minnesota Nonfarm Wage & Salary Jobs, Hours & Earnings

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT 1/ (thousands)			PERCENT CHANGE FROM		PRODUCTION WORKERS & HOURS & EARNINGS 2/					
						Average Weekly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings	
	Feb. 1991	Jan. 1991	Feb. 1990	Jan. 1991	Feb. 1990	Feb. 1991	Feb. 1990	Feb. 1991	Feb. 1990	Feb. 1991	Feb. 1990
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	2,082.5	2,086.2	2,077.3	-0.2	0.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goods Producing	449.9	457.5	464.8	-1.7	-3.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mining	7.2	7.2	7.2	-1.0	-0.2	649.32	617.32	42.0	44.0	15.46	14.03
Metal Mining	6.3	6.3	6.1	-1.4	3.0	669.07	635.02	42.4	44.5	15.78	14.27
Construction	60.4	62.2	64.3	-2.8	-6.0	655.62	624.59	37.4	37.2	17.53	16.79
Manufacturing	382.4	388.1	393.3	-1.5	-2.8	455.26	446.80	39.9	40.0	11.41	11.17
Durable Goods	215.9	221.5	228.6	-2.5	-5.5	467.37	461.95	40.5	40.7	11.54	11.35
Lumber and Furniture	20.4	21.5	21.8	-5.1	-6.4	468.62	505.00	37.4	38.2	12.53	13.22
Stone, Clay and Glass	7.1	7.2	7.2	-1.5	-1.8	497.74	462.30	41.0	40.2	12.14	11.50
Primary Metals	6.1	6.3	6.4	-2.6	-4.5	464.26	457.06	40.3	41.4	11.52	11.04
Fabricated Metals	32.7	34.1	34.3	-4.1	-4.7	496.51	471.42	41.0	41.1	12.11	11.47
Industrial Machinery	73.7	74.0	78.9	-0.4	-6.5	500.99	474.97	41.2	40.7	12.16	11.67
Office and Computing	32.1	32.1	36.1	0.0	-11.1	531.91	484.21	44.4	42.4	11.98	11.42
Electronic Equipment	29.5	29.9	29.7	-1.4	-0.9	396.88	408.10	41.0	41.6	9.68	9.81
Transportation Equipment	8.2	10.1	11.1	-19.4	-26.6	478.80	492.48	40.0	40.4	11.97	12.19
Instruments and Related	32.5	32.6	33.1	-0.2	-1.8	453.11	441.63	41.8	42.1	10.84	10.49
Misc. Manufacturing	5.8	5.9	6.1	-0.9	-4.5	387.96	413.71	36.6	38.2	10.60	10.83
Nondurable Goods	166.4	166.7	164.7	-0.1	1.0	442.13	428.15	93.3	39.1	11.25	10.95
Food & Beverage Products	47.2	47.4	47.0	-0.3	0.5	397.94	382.59	39.4	39.2	10.10	9.76
Textiles & Apparel	4.8	4.9	4.6	-0.7	3.9	284.87	293.10	35.3	35.7	8.07	8.21
Paper Products	34.2	34.2	33.5	0.0	2.1	571.20	545.81	42.5	41.1	13.44	13.28
Printing and Publishing	52.4	52.3	51.3	0.1	2.2	417.75	423.38	37.1	37.5	11.26	11.29
Chemicals and Petroleum	11.2	11.4	11.6	-1.2	-3.0	552.57	513.76	40.6	41.2	13.61	12.47
Rubber, Plastic & Leather	16.6	16.6	16.8	0.2	-1.3	411.03	385.36	40.1	40.1	10.25	9.61
Service Producing	1,632.5	1,628.6	1,612.5	0.2	1.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transp., Comm., & Util.	106.6	107.3	106.5	-0.7	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	72.7	73.3	72.5	-0.8	0.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trucking & Warehousing	26.0	26.1	26.4	-0.4	-1.6	382.94	406.89	31.7	33.0	12.08	12.33
Communication & Utilities	33.9	34.1	34.0	-0.4	-0.2	622.79	587.90	38.9	38.2	16.01	15.39
Trade	498.3	503.9	500.0	-1.1	-0.3	243.66	230.89	28.7	28.4	8.49	8.13
Wholesale	122.1	122.5	123.3	-0.4	-1.0	424.47	404.43	37.3	36.8	11.38	10.99
Retail	376.3	381.4	376.7	-1.3	-0.1	191.26	180.01	26.2	25.9	7.30	6.95
Building Materials	16.5	17.0	16.4	-2.8	0.3	309.03	317.66	33.7	35.1	9.17	9.05
General Merchandise	54.6	57.3	56.6	-4.7	-3.6	183.44	170.64	24.2	24.0	7.58	7.11
Food Stores	3.7	54.2	52.3	-1.0	2.7	210.63	187.70	26.9	26.4	7.83	7.11
Automotive	42.4	42.8	42.6	-0.8	-0.4	288.99	291.38	34.2	34.0	8.45	8.57
Apparel	19.1	19.9	20.0	-4.0	-4.5	132.04	125.55	21.4	21.1	6.17	5.95
Home Furnishings	14.9	15.3	15.3	-2.5	-2.5	280.21	257.00	31.1	30.2	9.01	8.51
Eating and Drinking	125.1	124.6	123.8	0.4	1.0	130.53	116.11	22.9	22.2	5.70	5.23
Fin., Insur., Real Estate	123.9	123.9	123.5	0.0	0.4						
Finance	56.5	56.5	56.8	0.1	-0.4						
Insurance	46.9	46.9	46.2	0.0	1.5						
Real Estate	20.5	20.5	20.5	0.0	0.1						
Services	552.7	549.1	539.0	0.6	2.5						
Personal Services	25.6	25.1	25.4	2.0	0.9						
Business Services	92.1	91.5	90.3	0.6	2.0						
Repair Services	23.7	23.7	23.4	-0.3	1.2						
Health Services	169.9	169.3	164.3	0.3	3.4						
Nursing Homes	43.6	43.5	43.6	0.2	0.0						
Hospitals	57.0	56.7	55.1	0.6	3.6						
Legal Services	15.9	16.0	15.6	-0.2	2.4						
Private Education	34.8	33.7	33.9	3.5	2.8						
Government	351.0	344.4	343.5	1.9	2.2						
Federal	33.6	33.7	34.0	-0.4	-1.2						
State	88.4	86.0	87.0	2.7	1.6						
Education	51.3	48.9	50.2	4.8	2.2						
Local	229.0	224.6	222.5	1.9	2.9						
Education	125.2	120.8	122.5	3.7	2.3						

Note: Not all industry sub-groups are shown for every major industry category.

1/ Totals may not add because of rounding.

2/ Average earnings data are on a "gross" basis and are derived from reports of payroll for full-time and part-time production or non-supervisory workers. The payroll is reported before deductions of any kind. Bonuses, retroactive pay, tips, payment in kind, and "fringe benefits" are excluded.

Minneapolis-St. Paul MSA

Are We Nearing the Bottom?

Labor market indicators took a sharp nosedive in the Twin Cities in February. The unemployment rate rose to 5.5%, the highest it has been in February since 1984. Nonfarm wage and salary jobs dropped below the level of a year ago for the first time since May 1983. While there are a multitude of indicators of weak demand for labor, there are also a few early signs that perhaps the economic downturn is beginning to level and the labor market will begin to rebound.

There is no real typical trend in the unemployment rate between January and February. Over the past 11 years, the rate has increased four times, decreased four times, and remained unchanged three times. This year the jobless rate increased by 1.1 percentage points, by far the most the rate has increased between these two months.

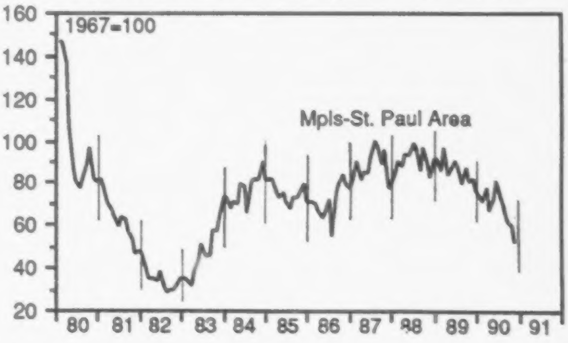
The establishment survey indicates that the job loss was widespread, but particularly severe in durable goods manufacturing. The Ford assembly plant shutdown for inventory adjustment during the February survey reference week. In addition, there was a major labor management dispute, since settled, which eliminated about 1,300 jobs in a fabricated metal products firm during the survey week. These two somewhat unusual events contributed significantly to the over the year job loss.

Signs of economic recovery come primarily from early March national data which shows renewed interest in new and previously-owned homes, and the tremendous surge in consumer confidence following the cease-fire in late February. That should bolster construction and construction-related manufacturing jobs, such as windows and doors, in the months ahead. Meanwhile, higher consumer confidence has already resulted in recalls in airline transportation, and it should fuel more demand in the Spring-time retail and service areas.

In summary, one can be cautiously optimistic that labor market conditions will improve--probably gradually, however. There is still a good deal of caution among both employers and consumers, and employment generally lags behind other indicators of economic activity.

By Bruce Steuernagel

Conference Board Help Wanted Index



Labor Force Estimates

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	Feb. 1991	Jan. 1991	Feb. 1990	Feb. 1991	Jan. 1991	Feb. 1990	Feb. 1991	Jan. 1991	Feb. 1990
Mpls-St. Paul	1,316,314	1,347,864	1,328,656	76,151	61,892	58,016	5.5	4.4	4.2
REGION 11	1,235,892	1,265,547	1,247,018	67,466	54,507	51,843	5.2	4.1	4.0
Anoka	127,106	130,156	128,250	8,795	7,245	6,432	6.5	5.3	4.8
Carver	23,684	24,252	23,897	1,516	1,297	1,233	6.0	5.1	4.9
Dakota	139,193	142,533	140,446	8,467	6,669	6,236	5.7	4.5	4.3
Hennepin	584,773	598,805	590,038	27,979	23,318	22,475	4.6	3.7	3.7
Ramsey	261,502	267,777	263,856	13,339	10,427	10,269	4.9	3.7	3.7
Scott	28,001	28,673	28,254	2,422	2,003	2,000	8.0	6.5	6.6
Washington	71,633	73,351	72,277	4,948	3,548	3,198	6.5	4.6	4.2
Chisago	13,665	13,993	13,788	1,727	1,446	1,391	11.2	9.4	9.2
Isanti	11,570	11,848	11,674	1,250	1,116	962	9.8	8.6	7.6
Wright	31,647	32,407	31,932	3,616	3,143	2,802	10.3	8.8	8.1
St. Croix, WI	23,540	24,069	24,244	2,092	1,483	1,018	8.2	5.8	4.0
Bloomington	54,822	56,138	55,316	2,450	2,080	1,974	4.3	3.6	3.4
Minneapolis	192,846	197,474	194,583	10,241	8,182	8,336	5.0	4.0	4.1
St. Paul	134,830	138,066	136,044	8,220	6,435	6,308	5.7	4.5	4.4

Twin Cities Nonfarm Wage & Salary Jobs, Hours & Earnings

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT 1/ (thousands)			PERCENT CHANGE FROM		PRODUCTION WORKERS & HOURS & EARNINGS 2/					
						Average Weekly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings	
	Feb. 1991	Jan. 1991	Feb. 1990	Jan. 1991	Feb. 1990	Feb. 1991	Feb. 1990	Feb. 1991	Feb. 1990	Feb. 1991	Feb. 1990
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	1,343.6	1,347.2	1,346.4	-0.3	-0.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goods Producing	289.5	295.1	303.2	-1.9	-4.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mining	0.4	0.4	0.4	8.7	9.3	613.87	663.64	39.3	41.4	15.62	16.03
Construction	39.6	40.3	42.1	-1.7	-5.9	706.13	662.07	37.5	36.7	18.83	18.04
Manufacturing	249.4	254.4	260.7	-2.0	-4.3	479.60	468.40	39.9	40.0	12.02	11.71
Durable Goods	144.7	149.6	157.4	-3.3	-8.1	490.45	479.89	40.3	40.6	12.17	11.82
Lumber and Furniture	7.8	8.8	9.2	-11.3	-16.1	518.37	567.11	37.0	38.5	14.01	14.73
Stone, Clay and Glass	2.3	2.4	2.4	-3.9	-5.3	491.79	496.75	39.0	39.3	12.61	12.64
Primary Metals	4.4	4.5	4.6	-2.4	-3.5	458.40	442.74	40.0	41.3	11.46	10.72
Fabricated Metals	24.4	25.7	26.1	-5.1	-6.7	529.62	480.74	42.0	40.5	12.61	11.87
Industrial Machinery	51.1	51.3	56.3	-0.4	-9.2	515.81	501.84	39.8	41.0	12.96	12.24
Office and Computing	20.8	20.8	25.0	0.1	-16.8	541.55	567.54	39.3	44.9	13.78	12.64
Electronic Equipment	18.3	18.4	18.7	-0.7	-2.5	411.37	396.76	39.9	39.4	10.31	10.07
Transportation Equipment	3.2	5.0	5.8	-37.4	-45.3	615.86	605.67	40.2	38.9	15.32	15.57
Instruments and Related	29.4	29.4	30.2	-0.3	-2.7	474.75	461.78	42.2	42.6	11.25	10.84
Misc. Manufacturing	4.0	4.1	4.1	-1.6	-1.6	444.00	465.52	37.0	38.6	12.00	12.06
Nondurable Goods	104.7	104.8	103.3	-0.1	1.4	466.10	453.15	39.4	39.2	11.83	11.56
Food & Beverage Products	18.0	18.3	18.1	-1.7	-0.4	485.75	456.55	41.2	40.8	11.79	11.19
Paper Products	26.1	26.1	25.7	0.2	1.6	511.70	488.40	41.2	40.0	12.42	12.21
Printing and Publishing	37.6	37.6	36.1	0.2	4.1	427.39	448.44	37.1	38.1	11.52	11.77
Chemicals and Petroleum	9.8	9.8	9.7	-0.1	0.8	595.85	555.19	40.7	39.6	14.64	14.02
Rubber and Plastic	11.0	11.0	11.1	0.1	-0.5	436.56	392.03	40.8	39.4	10.70	9.95
Service Producing	1,054.1	1,052.0	1,043.2	0.2	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transp. Comm., & Util.	74.8	75.4	75.7	-0.7	-1.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	53.6	54.0	54.2	-0.8	-1.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trucking & Warehousing	16.1	16.1	17.1	-0.2	-6.1	381.35	400.69	29.2	31.7	13.06	12.64
Communication & Utilities	21.3	21.4	21.6	-0.6	-1.4	625.68	571.91	39.6	37.8	15.80	15.13
Trade	317.1	320.9	321.5	-1.2	-1.4	276.36	261.36	29.4	29.3	9.40	8.92
Wholesale	81.4	81.7	83.1	-0.4	-2.0	475.27	442.15	37.9	37.0	12.54	11.95
Retail	235.7	239.2	238.4	-1.5	-1.1	215.20	205.25	26.8	26.9	8.03	7.63
Building Materials	9.5	9.9	9.8	-3.8	-3.1	360.81	380.49	34.2	36.1	10.55	10.54
General Merchandise	38.1	40.2	40.7	-5.1	-6.4	202.52	188.57	24.4	24.3	8.30	7.76
Food Stores	29.6	29.7	29.1	-0.2	1.8	257.78	249.85	27.6	28.2	9.34	8.86
Automotive	24.8	24.9	24.7	-0.5	0.1	335.41	330.08	36.3	35.8	9.24	9.22
Apparel	12.8	13.3	13.4	-4.0	-5.0	127.08	121.18	20.3	19.8	6.26	6.12
Home Furnishings	10.3	10.6	10.9	-3.2	-5.5	338.75	273.51	31.6	28.7	10.72	9.53
Eating and Drinking	79.4	79.2	78.9	0.3	0.7	150.17	138.82	23.5	24.1	6.39	5.76
Fin., Insur., Real Estate	96.5	96.5	96.6	0.0	-0.1						
Finance	40.7	40.6	41.3	0.1	-1.6						
Insurance	39.1	39.1	38.6	0.0	1.2						
Real Estate	16.7	16.7	16.6	0.0	0.7						
Services	372.9	370.2	361.6	0.7	3.1						
Personal Services	18.2	17.8	18.1	2.2	0.9						
Business Services	79.1	78.5	77.9	0.8	1.6						
Repair Services	17.3	17.4	17.3	-0.4	0.4						
Health Services	96.4	96.0	93.5	0.4	3.1						
Nursing Homes	22.8	22.6	23.0	0.6	-1.1						
Hospitals	33.9	33.8	33.2	0.2	2.1						
Legal Services	13.1	13.1	12.5	-0.3	4.4						
Private Education	19.4	19.1	18.5	1.5	4.8						
Government	192.8	189.1	187.8	1.9	2.7						
Federal	21.2	21.2	21.6	-0.2	-1.8						
State	56.8	55.2	55.7	2.8	1.9						
Education	32.8	31.3	31.8	5.0	3.2						
Local	114.9	112.7	110.6	1.9	3.9						
Education	63.0	60.7	61.3	3.8	2.9						

Note: Not all industry sub-groups are shown for every major industry category.

1/ Totals may not add because of roundings.

2/ Average earnings data are on a "gross" basis and are derived from reports of payroll for full-time and part-time production or non-supervisory workers. The payroll is reported before deductions of any kind. Bonuses, retroactive pay, tips, payment in kind, and "fringe benefits" are excluded.

Southern Minnesota

Labor Force Estimates

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	Feb. 1991	Jan. 1991	Feb. 1990	Feb. 1991	Jan. 1991	Feb. 1990	Feb. 1991	Jan. 1991	Feb. 1990
REGION 6W	24,346	24,772	23,379	1,927	1,735	1,606	7.3	6.5	6.4
Big Stone	2,744	2,843	2,714	247	211	201	8.3	6.9	6.9
Chippewa	7,400	7,339	6,666	552	562	472	6.9	7.1	6.6
Lac Qui Parle	4,044	4,180	3,998	255	221	209	5.9	5.0	5.0
Swift	4,598	4,735	4,577	433	390	352	8.6	7.6	7.1
Yellow Med.	5,560	5,675	5,424	440	351	372	7.3	5.8	6.4
REGION 8	60,849	62,655	58,898	3,765	3,404	3,533	5.8	5.2	5.7
Cottonwood	5,989	6,205	5,948	444	408	323	6.9	6.2	5.2
Jackson	5,670	5,834	5,262	375	321	303	6.2	5.2	5.4
Lincoln	3,166	3,318	3,068	255	251	264	7.5	7.0	7.9
Lyon	12,579	12,862	11,965	805	683	793	6.0	5.0	6.2
Murray	4,653	4,778	4,516	384	354	398	7.6	6.9	8.1
Nobles	11,687	12,049	11,318	475	474	432	3.9	3.8	3.7
Pipestone	4,876	5,014	4,944	400	338	373	7.6	6.3	7.0
Redwood	7,442	7,665	7,303	426	382	445	5.4	4.7	5.7
Rock	4,787	4,930	4,574	201	193	202	4.0	3.8	4.2
REGION 9	108,493	110,994	106,134	7,784	6,249	5,911	6.7	5.3	5.3
Blue Earth	28,183	28,666	28,017	1,402	1,070	1,047	4.7	3.6	3.6
Brown	13,837	14,202	13,071	1,027	919	837	6.9	6.1	6.0
Faribault	7,311	7,613	7,223	752	640	585	9.3	7.8	7.5
LeSueur	10,049	10,276	10,044	1,341	1,058	914	11.8	9.3	8.3
Martin	11,248	11,590	10,743	881	740	788	7.3	6.0	6.8
Nicollet	15,384	15,648	15,294	704	548	600	4.4	3.4	3.8
Sibley	6,672	6,905	6,551	646	524	543	8.8	7.1	7.7
Waseca	9,781	9,916	9,284	601	449	345	5.8	4.3	3.6
Watonwan	6,028	6,178	5,907	430	301	252	6.7	4.6	4.1
REGION 10	220,181	225,503	216,155	13,852	11,401	11,238	5.9	4.8	4.9
Dodge	7,411	7,715	7,754	822	686	582	10.0	8.2	7.0
Fillmore	9,623	10,055	9,214	943	736	839	8.9	6.8	8.3
Freeborn	15,675	16,161	16,051	1,335	1,331	1,367	7.8	7.6	7.8
Goodhue	21,504	21,929	20,944	1,205	1,012	992	5.3	4.4	4.5
Houston	9,274	9,592	9,071	786	521	653	7.8	5.2	6.7
Mower	17,505	17,819	16,986	912	809	842	5.0	4.3	4.7
Olmsted	62,969	64,299	60,463	2,448	2,068	2,083	3.7	3.1	3.3
Rice	27,217	27,818	26,661	1,830	1,415	1,306	6.3	4.8	4.7
Steele	15,611	15,954	15,628	1,004	804	608	6.0	4.8	3.7
Wabasha	8,043	8,227	7,967	731	628	634	8.3	7.1	7.4
Winona	25,349	25,934	25,416	1,836	1,389	1,332	6.8	5.1	5.0
Rochester Cty	39,176	40,004	37,617	1,681	1,414	1,415	4.1	3.4	3.6

Rochester MSA Nonfarm Wage & Salary Jobs

Industry	Employment			% Change From	
	Feb. 1991	Jan. 1991	Feb. 1990	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	66,242	66,334	63,244	-0.1	4.7
Goods Producing	13,747	13,799	13,543	-0.4	1.5
Construction and Mining	1,950	2,025	1,841	-3.7	5.9
Manufacturing	11,797	11,774	11,702	0.2	0.8
Durable Goods	9,883	9,891	9,936	-0.1	-0.5
Nondurable Goods	1,914	1,883	1,766	1.6	8.4
Service Producing	52,495	52,535	49,701	-0.1	5.6
Transp., Comm., & Util.	1,878	1,892	1,854	-0.7	1.3
Trade	13,166	13,414	12,564	-1.8	4.8
Wholesale	1,603	1,599	1,564	0.3	2.5
Retail	11,563	11,815	11,000	-2.1	5.1
Finan., Insur., & Re. Estate	1,787	1,791	1,750	-0.2	2.1
Services	28,600	28,536	26,834	0.2	6.6
Health	19,347	19,276	18,143	0.4	6.6
Other Services	9,253	9,260	8,691	-0.1	6.5
Government	7,064	6,902	6,699	2.3	5.4

Unemployment Rates May Be On The Increase

Unemployment rates seem to be edging upward, rising over the month, and more significantly, over the year. Unemployment rates across southern Minnesota averaged nearly one percentage point higher this February than during February 1990, and in the Rochester MSA, about a half a point higher. Still, at 3.7% this February, the MSA's rate was just over half the state's 6.6%. Unlike the rest of Minnesota, Region 8's unemployment rate remained about the same as last February's at 5.8%.

Unlike nationally and in other Minnesota metro areas, the number of employed workers in southern Minnesota rose significantly over last February despite dropping seasonally since January. Compared to February 1990, there were 2.3% more working in the four regions and 4.1% more in the Rochester MSA. Last year the MSA's February-to-February increase was 2.0%.

Relatively robust employment was also reflected in the Rochester MSA's nonfarm payroll jobs which rose 4.7% (3,000 jobs) over February of 1990, the largest gain by far of any MSA in the state. Powering this relative proliferation of jobs was health services, which created 1,204 new positions; retail trade and other services, both of which added about 560 jobs; and government, which had 365 more jobs than it did last February. The durable goods manufacturing sector, which has seen significant job cuts elsewhere, lost only about 50 over the year in the MSA.

Compared to January, the Rochester MSA's payroll job level remained essentially unchanged. Construction/mining lost 3.7% of its jobs, retail trade lost 2.1% of its, and government added 2.3% more jobs. Otherwise, there was little change.

By Ron Daws

Central and Northwest Minnesota

Labor Force Estimates

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	Feb. 1991	Jan. 1991	Feb. 1990	Feb. 1991	Jan. 1991	Feb. 1990	Feb. 1991	Jan. 1991	Feb. 1990
REGION 1	**41,016**	**41,954**	**39,739**	**5,272**	**5,383**	**4,350**	**11.4**	**11.4**	**9.9**
Kittson	2,405	2,480	2,322	302	291	276	11.2	10.5	10.6
Marshall	4,438	4,646	4,328	1,153	1,112	943	20.6	19.3	17.9
Norman	3,442	3,587	3,339	384	322	290	10.0	8.2	8.0
Pennington	6,287	6,444	6,119	1,102	949	816	14.9	12.8	11.8
Polk	14,250	14,477	13,967	1,388	1,174	1,143	8.9	7.5	7.6
Red Lake	1,444	1,473	1,333	414	394	410	22.3	21.1	23.5
Roseau	8,750	8,847	8,331	529	1,141	472	5.7	11.4	5.4
REGION 2	**29,397**	**30,067**	**28,971**	**3,901**	**3,391**	**3,095**	**11.7**	**10.1**	**9.7**
Beltrami	15,895	16,212	15,553	1,506	1,265	1,153	8.7	7.2	6.9
Clearwater	3,041	3,106	3,062	1,069	924	851	26.0	22.9	21.7
Hubbard	6,087	6,204	6,168	909	815	741	13.0	11.6	10.7
Lake of Woods	2,005	2,092	1,857	75	80	81	3.6	3.7	4.2
Mahnomen	2,369	2,453	2,331	342	307	269	12.6	11.1	10.3
REGION 4	**95,051**	**97,295**	**92,246**	**8,996**	**7,612**	**7,039**	**8.6**	**7.3**	**7.1**
Becker	12,931	13,256	12,662	1,556	1,286	1,274	10.7	8.8	9.1
Clay	24,840	25,327	24,118	1,787	1,945	1,385	6.7	7.1	5.4
Douglas	15,282	15,691	14,638	1,113	962	939	6.8	5.8	6.0
Grant	2,887	2,969	2,818	319	295	302	10.0	9.0	9.7
Otter Tail	24,203	24,656	23,407	2,962	2,098	2,074	10.9	7.8	8.1
Pope	4,571	4,685	4,484	529	383	430	10.4	7.6	8.8
Stevens	5,112	5,237	4,956	308	291	292	5.7	5.3	5.6
Traverse	1,947	2,048	1,934	187	157	166	8.8	7.1	7.9
Wilkin	3,278	3,426	3,229	235	195	177	6.7	5.4	5.2
REGION 5	**56,607**	**57,796**	**55,505**	**7,620**	**6,277**	**6,069**	**11.9**	**9.8**	**9.9**
Cass	7,828	7,977	7,490	1,379	1,163	1,181	15.0	12.7	13.6
Crow Wing	20,384	20,741	20,078	2,137	1,827	1,777	9.5	8.1	8.1
Morrison	13,160	13,498	13,089	2,191	1,694	1,646	14.3	11.2	11.2
Todd	10,418	10,667	10,137	1,295	1,082	979	11.1	9.2	8.8
Wadena	4,817	4,913	4,711	618	511	486	11.4	9.4	9.4
REGION 6E	**54,247**	**55,461**	**51,974**	**4,275**	**3,683**	**3,538**	**7.3**	**6.2**	**6.4**
Kandiyohi	20,261	20,683	19,327	1,292	1,128	976	6.0	5.2	4.8
McLeod	16,597	16,993	16,215	1,110	958	998	6.3	5.3	5.8
Meeker	8,693	8,848	8,209	1,173	1,007	842	11.9	10.2	9.3
Renville	8,696	8,937	8,223	700	590	722	7.4	6.2	8.1
REGION 7E	**49,416**	**50,465**	**49,389**	**6,612**	**5,500**	**5,302**	**11.8**	**9.8**	**9.7**
Chisago	13,665	13,993	13,788	1,727	1,446	1,391	11.2	5.4	9.2
Isanti	11,570	11,848	11,674	1,250	1,116	962	9.8	8.6	7.6
Kanabec	5,114	5,209	5,176	918	750	834	15.2	12.6	13.9
Mille Lacs	9,923	10,152	9,498	1,133	900	866	10.2	8.1	8.4
Pine	9,144	9,263	9,253	1,584	1,288	1,249	14.8	12.2	11.9
REGION 7W	**127,374**	**129,906**	**127,108**	**11,952**	**10,133**	**9,512**	**8.6**	**7.2**	**7.0**
Benton	15,097	15,377	15,010	1,444	1,209	1,183	8.7	7.3	7.2
Sherburne	18,554	18,898	18,447	2,098	1,741	1,531	10.2	8.4	7.7
Stearns	62,076	63,226	61,719	4,794	4,040	4,016	7.2	6.0	6.1
Wright	31,647	32,407	31,932	3,616	3,143	2,802	10.3	8.8	8.1
St. Cloud MSA	95,727	97,501	95,177	8,337	6,990	6,710	8.0	6.7	6.6

St. Cloud MSA Nonfarm Wage & Salary Jobs

Industry	Employment			% Change From	
	Feb. 1991	Jan. 1991	Feb. 1990	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	**78,574**	**78,352**	**77,430**	0.3	1.5
Goods Producing	**16,834**	**16,904**	**16,656**	-0.4	1.1
Construction and Mining	2,422	2,487	2,836	-2.6	-14.6
Manufacturing	14,412	14,417	13,820	0.0	4.3
Durable Goods	8,258	8,295	8,285	-0.4	-0.3
Nondurable Goods	6,154	6,122	5,535	0.5	11.2
Service Producing	**61,740**	**61,448**	**60,774**	0.5	1.6
Transp., Comm., & Util.	3,922	3,930	3,740	-0.2	4.9
Trade	22,935	23,219	23,192	-1.2	-1.1
Wholesale	3,617	3,659	3,632	-1.1	-0.4
Retail	19,318	19,560	19,560	-1.2	-1.2
Finan., Insur., & Re. Estate	2,546	2,510	2,417	1.4	5.3
Services	18,416	18,126	17,463	1.6	5.5
Health	6,159	6,110	5,486	0.8	12.3
Other Services	12,257	12,016	11,977	2.0	2.3
Government	13,921	13,663	13,962	1.9	-0.3

Unemployment Jumps In February

Unemployment rates jumped from a month and year ago, especially across central Minnesota. In the usually economically sound St. Cloud MSA, for example, the unemployment rate climbed to 8.0% in February from 6.7% in January and 6.6% last February. St. Cloud's rate usually rises in February, but rarely this much. Not since 1985, when the MSA's February unemployment rate was 9.9% has this month's rate been this high.

Total employment across central and northwestern Minnesota also generally increased over the year, but barely. Worker losses over the month were mainly seasonal.

Payroll-based job estimates confirm that the St. Cloud economy is slowing. Two years ago the February-to-February job increase was 8.4%. Last year it was 2.2%. This year nonfarm payroll jobs increased 1.5% over February of 1990. This small net increase was the outcome of a few divergent industrial trends.

Construction/mining dropped by 14.6% (414 jobs) compared to February 1990, while nondurable goods manufacturing rose 11.2% (619 jobs) and health services rose 12.3% (673 jobs). While not a large percentage loss, retail trade lost 242 jobs over the year, the first February-to-February loss since 1975.

The small January-to-February job increase in the MSA was typical and the cumulation of mostly small (primarily seasonal) gains and losses among many industry sectors. Again, retail trade shows up as a red flag. Although retail trade suffered only a small job loss, it was the first time since 1986 that jobs didn't increase between January and February.

By Ron Daws

Northeast Minnesota

Unemployment Rates Continue To Rise

Region 3's unemployment rates continued to creep upward reaching 9.1% in February compared to 7.6% in January and 7.5% during February of 1990. Duluth's rate, meanwhile, rose to 6.8% compared to 5.3% in January and 5.7% last February. Not since 1987 when Duluth's February rate was 7.3% has it been higher for this month.

Encouragingly, the number of workers in the region and city is also increasing. Compared to February, there was nearly one percent more workers in the region, and nearly two percent more workers in Duluth. The drop in workers between January and February almost always happens, and the decline this year seems to be no greater than normal.

Even during this economic slowdown, Duluth's payroll jobs continue to grow, albeit more slowly now. The small decline in jobs between January and February was seasonal and enough were left to net Duluth 1.5% or 727 additional jobs over last February.

The main reason Duluth's over-the-year payroll job gain was small was that nondurable goods manufacturing susained job cutbacks that amounted to about 275 jobs, or 10.3% of its work force. Several other industries, however, netted substantial gains. Health services added 6.8% or nearly 400 more workers over the year. Contrary to national trends, both durable goods manufacturing and retail trade were able to create significant numbers of jobs. To put retail trade's job gain into perspective it should be mentioned that jobs were down somewhat last winter and spring.

Between January and February, Duluth's overall payroll job level remained essentially unchanged. Retail trade lost 300 jobs, a much stronger than normal February loss, and construction lost 80 jobs. That was counteracted by the addition of about 160 jobs in the service industry and over 200 new government jobs.

By Ron Daws

Labor Force Estimates

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	Feb. 1991	Jan. 1991	Feb. 1990	Feb. 1991	Jan. 1991	Feb. 1990	Feb. 1991	Jan. 1991	Feb. 1990
REGION 3	135,020	138,187	133,982	13,504	11,298	10,897	9.1	7.6	7.5
Aitkin	5,050	5,110	4,887	840	699	695	14.3	12.0	12.5
Carlton	11,799	12,100	11,720	1,383	1,106	1,082	10.5	8.4	8.5
Cook	2,454	2,553	2,384	247	209	256	9.1	7.6	9.7
Itasca	16,287	16,588	15,976	2,011	1,782	1,922	11.0	9.7	10.7
Koochiching	8,400	8,526	9,690	878	842	418	9.5	9.0	4.1
Lake	4,112	4,236	4,024	694	454	334	14.4	9.7	7.7
St. Louis	86,908	89,074	85,301	7,451	6,206	6,190	7.9	6.5	6.8
City of Duluth	37,730	38,671	37,033	2,763	2,155	2,220	6.8	5.3	5.7
Balance St. Louis	49,178	50,403	48,268	4,688	4,051	3,970	8.7	7.4	7.6

Duluth & Duluth Superior MSA Nonfarm Wage & Salary Jobs

Industry	DULUTH					DULUTH SUPERIOR				
	Employment			% Change From		Employment			% Change From	
	Feb. 1991	Jan. 1991	Feb. 1990	Month Ago	Year Ago	Feb. 1991	Jan. 1991	Feb. 1990	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	49,327	49,343	48,600	0.0	1.5	97,122	97,265	94,425	-0.1	2.9
Goods Producing	5,417	5,507	5,529	-1.6	-2.0	16,767	16,755	16,182	0.1	3.6
Mining	Small, combined with construction					5,186	5,310	5,166	-2.3	0.4
Construction	1,409	1,489	1,383	-5.4	1.9	3,075	3,000	2,800	2.5	9.8
Manufacturing	4,008	4,018	4,146	-0.2	-3.3	8,506	8,445	8,216	0.7	3.5
Durable Goods	1,627	1,644	1,492	-1.0	9.0	4,615	4,581	4,222	0.7	9.3
Nondurable Goods	2,381	2,374	2,654	0.3	-10.3	3,891	3,864	3,994	0.7	-2.6
Service Producing	43,910	43,836	43,071	0.2	1.9	80,355	80,510	78,243	-0.2	2.7
Transp., Comm., & Util.	2,981	2,993	2,897	-0.4	2.9	5,757	5,935	5,522	-3.0	4.3
Trade	11,714	12,014	11,546	-2.5	1.5	23,820	24,291	23,449	-1.9	1.6
Wholesale	1,884	1,884	1,882	0.0	0.1	3,863	3,850	3,811	0.3	1.4
Retail	9,830	10,130	9,664	-3.0	1.7	19,957	20,441	19,638	-2.4	1.6
Finan., Insur., & Re. Estate	1,951	1,932	1,913	1.0	2.0	3,256	3,237	3,158	0.6	3.1
Services	14,931	14,773	14,316	1.1	4.3	24,979	24,957	23,931	0.1	4.4
Health	6,184	6,107	5,788	1.3	6.8	10,053	10,003	9,455	0.5	6.3
Other Services	8,747	8,666	8,528	0.9	2.6	14,926	14,954	14,476	-0.2	3.1
Government	12,333	12,124	12,399	1.7	-0.5	22,543	22,090	22,183	2.1	1.6

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Data on the labor force, unemployment, and industry employment have been revised for 1989 and 1990 in accordance with annual US Bureau of Labor Statistics procedures. These monthly revisions are available on diskette, along with data from previous years. You can get this information through our office analysts:

- **Local Area Unemployment Series (LAUS)** : contains monthly and annual average data on labor force, employment, unemployment and the unemployment rate for Minnesota and every county, major city, and region; contact Mike Casey at 296-3324.
- **Current Employment Series (CES)** : contains monthly and annual average data on industry employment for the state and metropolitan areas; contact Sue Borgfelt at 297-3111.

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Minnesota Labor Market Review

May 1991

Job Market Continues to Weaken, Despite Some Growth Industries

The impacts of a national recession are beginning to be felt throughout more of Minnesota's economy. Seasonally-adjusted, the number of jobs fell for the second month in a row, and have now dropped for four of the last five months. But the nature of the downturn is changing. In February, large job layoffs at a few large firms were responsible for most of the decline. In March, the losses were more widespread, with net jobs down in five of the seven major industry groups.

Measured by the number of payroll jobs (not total employment), Minnesota's economy appears to have peaked last October. The losses since then offset the gains made in the preceding half-year, so that now Minnesota has roughly the same job level as it did in March 1990. This lack of any growth bests the nation, however, where there are .7% fewer jobs than last year this time. Like the rest of the Midwest, Minnesota has benefitted -- in a relative sense -- from a manufacturing base that is highly competitive and export-oriented, and from less commercial overbuilding.

The state's performance is better seen in its unemployment rate. It has fluctuated wildly the first three months of 1991, partly from sampling aberration, going from 5.4% in January to 6.6% in February to 5.7% in March. A better measure, the 1991 first quarter average of 5.9%, is higher than 5.2% for the same period in 1990. The comparable U.S. figures are 6.5% and 5.3%, respectively. Our state labor markets have gotten tighter in the last year, but not as much as most other parts of the country did.

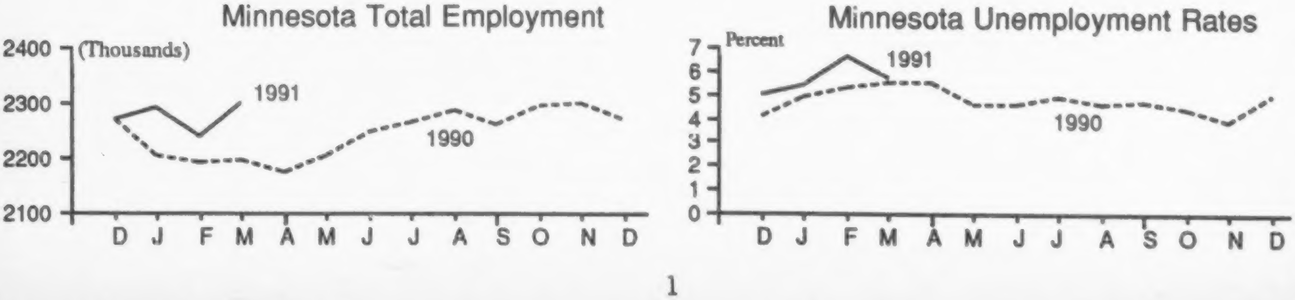
Minnesota has five clusters of industries where job creation has continued. During the past year, 6,900 jobs were added in health care and 6,000 more in education. This growth cuts across many kinds of health care and educational organizations -- local, state, private and public. In addition, local units of government have added 2,400 jobs in administration, private social service organizations contributed 2,800 more, and the food industry (processing and food stores) chipped in 2,700. Unfortunately, they have only managed to offset the losses emanating particularly from construction, most manufacturing, and parts of wholesaling, retailing, transportation and business services.

By Don Hilber

Current Labor Force Estimates

	Minnesota (In Thousands)			% Change From		United States (In Thousands)			% Change From	
	Mar 91	Feb 91	Mar 90	Feb 91	Mar 90	Mar 91	Feb 91	Mar 90	Feb 91	Mar 90
Labor Force	2436.2	2394.6	2,348.8	1.7	3.7	124,443	124,070	123,789	0.3	0.5
Employment	2298.6	2237.6	2,219.1	2.7	3.6	115,639	115,151	117,093	0.4	-1.2
Unemployment	137.7	157.0	129.7	-12.3	6.2	8,804	8,919	6,697	-1.3	31.5
Actual Unemp. Rate	5.7	6.6	5.5	-	-	7.1	7.2	5.4	-	-
Seasonally Adj. Rate	-	-	-	-	-	6.8	6.5	5.3	-	-

Minnesota Employment and Unemployment Rates - 1990 and 1991



Minnesota Nonfarm Wage & Salary Jobs, Hours & Earnings

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT 1/ (thousands)			PERCENT CHANGE FROM		PRODUCTION WORKERS & HOURS & EARNINGS 2/					
						Average Weekly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings	
	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990	Mar. 1991	Mar. 1990	Mar. 1991	Mar. 1990	Mar. 1991	Mar. 1990
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	**2,087.3**	**2,081.4**	**2,086.9**	**0.3**	**0.0**	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goods Producing	**451.5**	**449.7**	**467.3**	**0.4**	**-3.4**	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mining	**7.5**	**7.2**	**7.4**	**4.1**	**1.3**	643.25	610.53	41.5	43.3	15.50	14.10
Metal Mining	6.3	6.2	6.1	1.9	3.7	669.29	629.84	42.2	43.8	15.86	14.38
Construction	**61.0**	**60.5**	**65.2**	**0.9**	**-6.4**	642.53	618.46	36.8	37.1	17.46	16.67
Manufacturing	**382.9**	**382.0**	**394.7**	**0.2**	**-3.0**	453.77	447.60	39.7	40.0	11.43	11.19
Durable Goods	216.1	215.2	229.9	0.4	-6.0	465.92	460.89	40.2	40.5	11.59	11.38
Lumber and Furniture	20.8	20.4	21.9	1.6	-5.2	450.69	495.38	36.2	37.7	12.45	13.14
Stone, Clay and Glass	7.0	7.0	7.5	-0.4	-6.7	481.18	463.65	40.3	40.6	11.94	11.42
Primary Metals	6.1	6.1	6.4	-0.4	-5.7	452.02	442.26	38.8	40.5	11.65	10.92
Fabricated Metals	33.5	32.5	34.4	3.0	-2.6	500.21	481.43	40.9	41.9	12.23	11.49
Industrial Machinery	73.6	73.6	79.2	0.0	-7.0	508.38	468.33	41.5	40.2	12.25	11.65
Office and Computing	32.2	32.1	36.2	0.0	-11.1	549.92	468.52	44.6	40.6	12.33	11.54
Electronic Equipment	29.1	29.4	30.0	-1.3	-3.0	393.31	410.02	40.8	41.5	9.64	9.88
Transportation Equipment	8.1	8.2	11.2	-0.9	-28.0	459.93	546.12	38.2	42.9	12.04	12.73
Instruments and Related	32.3	32.2	33.2	0.2	-2.8	449.36	438.43	41.0	41.4	10.96	10.59
Misc. Manufacturing	5.8	5.8	6.2	-0.8	-6.8	388.21	404.25	37.4	37.5	10.38	10.78
Nondurable Goods	166.9	166.8	164.8	0.0	1.3	439.88	429.94	39.1	39.3	11.25	10.94
Food & Beverage Products	47.6	47.3	46.2	0.5	3.0	394.45	375.39	38.9	38.7	10.14	9.70
Textiles & Apparel	4.7	4.8	4.6	-1.5	1.6	284.69	289.57	35.9	35.4	7.93	8.18
Paper Products	34.4	34.3	33.5	0.3	2.7	571.27	560.10	42.6	42.4	13.41	13.21
Printing and Publishing	52.3	52.5	51.7	-0.3	1.2	412.14	419.25	36.7	37.5	11.23	11.18
Chemicals and Petroleum	11.4	11.3	11.7	0.9	-2.9	550.25	537.60	40.4	42.0	13.62	12.80
Rubber, Plastic & Leather	16.5	16.6	17.0	-0.9	-3.2	421.43	396.32	40.6	40.9	10.38	9.69
Service Producing	**1,635.8**	**1,631.7**	**1,619.5**	**0.3**	**1.0**	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transp., Comm., & Util.	**106.8**	**106.7**	**107.4**	**0.1**	**-0.6**	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	72.7	72.7	73.2	-0.1	-0.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trucking & Warehousing	26.0	26.1	26.5	-0.2	-1.6	370.97	407.59	31.2	33.3	11.89	12.24
Communication & Utilities	34.1	33.9	34.3	0.7	-0.3	616.46	597.14	38.1	38.5	16.18	15.51
Trade	**499.2**	**497.8**	**503.7**	**0.3**	**-0.9**	245.65	231.66	28.9	28.6	8.50	8.10
Wholesale	122.1	122.0	124.6	0.1	-2.0	422.61	400.03	37.3	36.7	11.33	10.90
Retail	377.1	375.8	379.1	0.3	-0.5	194.78	181.83	26.5	26.2	7.35	6.94
Building Materials	16.8	16.4	16.8	2.1	0.0	324.51	330.62	35.7	36.9	9.09	8.96
General Merchandise	53.5	54.3	56.1	-1.5	-4.6	194.54	171.50	25.2	24.5	7.72	7.00
Food Stores	53.8	53.7	52.5	0.1	2.4	221.05	188.05	27.7	26.3	7.98	7.15
Automotive	42.8	42.4	42.9	1.0	-0.2	287.62	291.38	33.6	34.2	8.56	8.52
Apparel	19.2	19.2	19.8	0.2	-2.8	128.01	128.79	21.3	21.5	6.01	5.99
Home Furnishings	14.8	14.9	15.4	-0.3	-3.6	284.09	270.83	32.1	31.9	8.85	8.49
Eating and Drinking	126.3	125.0	126.2	1.1	0.1	127.23	114.70	22.4	22.1	5.68	5.19
Fin., Insur., Real Estate	**124.3**	**124.1**	**123.8**	**0.2**	**0.4**						
Finance	56.8	56.6	56.7	0.4	0.2						
Insurance	47.0	47.0	46.3	0.0	1.6						
Real Estate	20.5	20.5	20.8	0.0	-1.6						
Services	**556.7**	**552.6**	**542.9**	**0.7**	**2.5**						
Personal Services	25.7	25.6	25.4	0.2	1.1						
Business Services	92.5	91.8	91.0	0.7	1.5						
Repair Services	23.7	23.7	23.6	0.3	0.8						
Health Services	170.8	169.9	164.5	0.5	3.8						
Nursing Homes	43.8	43.6	43.4	0.3	0.8						
Hospitals	57.5	57.1	55.1	0.7	4.2						
Legal Services	16.0	16.0	15.5	0.1	2.9						
Private Education	35.6	34.8	34.7	2.1	2.5						
Government	**348.8**	**350.6**	**341.7**	**-0.5**	**2.1**						
Federal	33.7	33.7	35.1	0.2	-3.8						
State	86.0	88.4	84.5	-2.6	1.8						
Education	49.1	51.3	47.5	-4.2	3.4						
Local	229.0	228.6	222.1	0.2	3.1						
Education	125.8	125.0	122.3	0.7	2.9						

Note: Not all industry sub-groups are shown for every major industry category.

1/ Totals may not add because of rounding.

2/ Average earnings data are on a "gross" basis and are derived from reports of payroll for full-time and part-time production or non-supervisory workers. The payroll is reported before deductions of any kind. Bonuses, retroactive pay, tips, payment in kind, and "fringe benefits" are excluded.

Minneapolis-St. Paul MSA

March Data Shows Continuing Weakness Despite Lower Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate for the Minneapolis St. Paul metropolitan area decreased to 4.8% in March, a drop of 0.7% of a percentage point from the February rate. The March unemployment rate was 0.4% of a percentage point above the rate of a year ago. March's level appears to be more in line with the trend of past months during which the jobless rate has been running about half a percentage point higher that a year ago. Thus, the large jump in the February jobless rate appears to have been an atypical occurrence caused by the combination of several large layoffs, and the statistical limitations of an estimating methodology which can cause pronounced month-to-month changes in the unemployment rate.

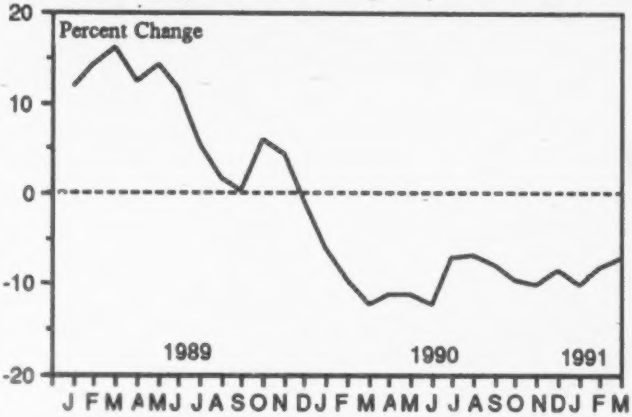
Last month we suggested that while the worst of the recession might be behind us, it will take time for employment to recover. The March nonfarm payroll job survey of area business shows that job retrenchment is continuing ,but at a somewhat reduced rate. After adjusting for seasonality, there was moderate job loss in all industries, except for manufacturing and finance, both of which registered small gains. There is some hope that seasonal construction will rebound if new residential construction follows the lead of improved sales of existing homes. The upturn in manufacturing employment was mostly due to the settlement of a labor dispute. In addition, there were callbacks in the construction-related lumber and wood products industry which provide additional signs of optimism.

Two sets of data which will bear following in upcoming months for some signs of increased demand for labor, will be average weekly hours, and employment in personnel supply services (see graph below). As the demand for labor increases, employers will probably extend work hours and pay overtime before hiring additional workers. Alternatively, employers may hire temporary workers as they need them. This hiring will show up on the payroll of the personnel supply service establishments. While the personnel supply service industry is not ordinarily published in the table on page 4, we will periodically publish the graph.

By Bruce Steuernagel

Personnel Supply Service Industry Jobs

Percent Change From a Year Ago, Mpls-St. Paul MSA



Labor Force Estimates

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990
Mpls-St. Paul	1,349,643	1,315,217	1,319,869	68,530	76,156	61,161	4.8	5.5	4.4
REGION 11	1,267,937	1,234,896	1,238,380	60,426	67,446	54,758	4.5	5.2	4.2
Anoka	130,401	127,003	127,362	7,727	8,781	6,911	5.6	6.5	5.1
Carver	24,298	23,665	23,731	1,335	1,515	1,257	5.2	6.0	5.0
Dakota	142,802	139,081	139,474	7,562	8,470	6,365	5.0	5.7	4.4
Hennepin	599,935	584,302	585,955	25,263	27,986	23,861	4.0	4.6	3.9
Ramsey	268,283	261,291	262,031	12,056	13,330	10,989	4.3	4.9	4.0
Scott	28,728	27,879	28,058	2,092	2,420	1,982	6.8	8.0	6.6
Washington	73,490	71,575	71,777	4,391	4,944	3,393	5.6	6.5	4.5
Chisago	14,019	13,654	13,892	1,530	1,726	1,487	9.8	11.2	9.6
Isanti	11,870	11,561	11,504	1,119	1,249	1,006	8.6	9.8	8.0
Wright	32,468	31,622	31,711	3,124	3,606	2,894	8.8	10.2	8.4
St. Croix, WI	23,350	23,486	24,282	2,331	2,125	1,006	9.1	8.3	4.0
Bloomington	56,244	54,776	54,933	2,195	2,451	2,110	3.8	4.3	3.7
Minneapolis	197,847	192,691	193,236	9,186	10,243	8,788	4.4	5.0	4.3
St. Paul	138,327	134,722	135,103	7,458	8,214	6,741	5.1	5.7	4.8

Twin Cities Nonfarm Wage & Salary Jobs, Hours & Earnings

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT 1/ (thousands)			PERCENT CHANGE FROM		PRODUCTION WORKERS & HOURS & EARNINGS 2/					
						Average Weekly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings	
	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990	Mar. 1991	Mar. 1990	Mar. 1991	Mar. 1990	Mar. 1991	Mar. 1990
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	1,347.7	1,343.3	1,352.6	0.3	-0.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goods Producing	290.7	289.0	304.9	0.6	-4.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mining	0.5	0.4	0.5	10.9	2.9	671.16	643.59	40.8	39.9	16.45	16.13
Construction	39.8	39.6	42.6	0.6	-6.5	687.42	654.47	36.8	36.4	18.68	17.98
Manufacturing	250.4	249.0	261.8	0.6	-4.4	481.19	472.35	39.9	40.2	12.06	11.75
Durable Goods	145.7	144.2	158.0	1.1	-7.8	495.71	481.14	40.4	40.5	12.27	11.88
Lumber and Furniture	8.1	7.8	9.2	3.9	-12.0	496.65	546.10	35.5	37.2	13.99	14.68
Stone, Clay and Glass	2.3	2.3	2.5	-1.2	-8.9	476.97	494.36	39.0	39.9	12.23	12.39
Primary Metals	4.4	4.4	4.6	-0.8	-5.1	446.98	429.20	38.8	40.3	11.52	10.65
Fabricated Metals	25.4	24.3	26.2	4.7	-2.8	535.10	492.71	42.3	41.3	12.65	11.93
Industrial Machinery	51.1	51.0	56.5	0.3	-9.6	536.11	499.38	40.4	40.6	13.27	12.30
Office and Computing	20.8	20.8	25.1	0.1	-16.9	614.43	565.04	41.6	43.1	14.77	13.11
Electronic Equipment	18.1	18.2	18.8	-0.4	-3.9	411.89	410.84	40.5	40.2	10.17	10.22
Transportation Equipment	3.2	3.2	5.8	1.7	-44.4	655.27	689.34	42.8	43.3	15.31	15.92
Instruments and Related	29.1	29.1	30.3	0.2	-3.7	462.97	458.55	41.3	41.8	11.21	10.97
Misc. Manufacturing	4.0	4.0	4.1	-0.8	-3.4	431.05	444.99	37.0	37.3	11.65	11.93
Nondurable Goods	104.7	104.8	103.8	-0.1	0.8	462.95	458.93	39.3	39.7	11.78	11.56
Food & Beverage Products	18.1	18.0	18.2	0.5	-0.3	473.69	453.81	40.8	40.7	11.61	11.15
Paper Products	26.2	26.2	25.7	-0.1	1.7	510.43	496.53	40.9	40.9	12.48	12.14
Printing and Publishing	37.6	37.6	36.4	0.0	3.5	422.87	444.95	36.9	37.9	11.46	11.74
Chemicals and Petroleum	9.8	9.8	9.9	0.0	-0.2	595.03	600.18	40.7	42.0	14.62	14.29
Rubber and Plastic	10.9	11.0	11.2	-1.2	-2.8	442.32	409.22	41.3	40.8	10.71	10.03
Service Producing	1,056.9	1,054.3	1,047.7	0.3	0.9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transp. Comm., & Util.	74.8	74.8	76.4	0.0	-2.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	53.5	53.6	54.8	-0.1	-2.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trucking & Warehousing	16.1	16.1	17.1	-0.2	-6.2	371.09	392.81	28.7	31.5	12.93	12.47
Communication & Utilities	21.3	21.3	21.6	0.0	-1.7	609.14	585.98	38.0	38.1	16.03	15.38
Trade	317.5	316.9	323.7	0.2	-1.9	277.89	262.54	29.5	29.4	9.42	8.93
Wholesale	81.3	81.3	83.8	0.1	-3.0	473.26	440.30	37.8	37.0	12.52	11.90
Retail	236.1	235.6	239.9	0.2	-1.6	218.70	208.13	27.0	27.1	8.10	7.68
Building Materials	9.6	9.4	9.9	1.8	-3.3	373.47	388.00	35.4	37.2	10.55	10.43
General Merchandise	37.4	38.1	40.3	-1.8	-7.1	218.66	189.20	26.0	24.7	8.41	7.66
Food Stores	29.6	29.6	29.1	0.0	1.7	264.41	259.35	27.4	28.5	9.65	9.10
Automotive	24.9	24.7	24.9	0.8	0.0	343.18	335.37	36.2	36.1	9.48	9.29
Apparel	12.9	12.9	13.3	0.1	-3.2	125.86	126.69	20.7	20.6	6.08	6.15
Home Furnishings	10.2	10.2	10.9	-0.4	-6.6	333.53	291.54	31.2	30.4	10.69	9.59
Eating and Drinking	80.3	79.5	80.4	1.0	-0.1	144.27	134.28	22.9	23.6	6.30	5.69
Fin., Insur., Real Estate	97.0	96.8	96.8	0.2	0.2						
Finance	41.0	40.8	41.2	0.6	-0.5						
Insurance	39.3	39.3	38.7	0.0	1.6						
Real Estate	16.7	16.7	17.0	0.0	-1.4						
Services	375.2	372.9	363.7	0.6	3.2						
Personal Services	18.3	18.2	18.0	0.2	1.4						
Business Services	79.4	79.0	78.4	0.5	1.3						
Repair Services	17.4	17.3	17.4	0.7	0.3						
Health Services	96.7	96.5	93.6	0.3	3.3						
Nursing Homes	22.6	22.8	22.8	-0.6	-0.6						
Hospitals	34.2	34.0	33.2	0.6	2.8						
Legal Services	13.1	13.1	12.5	0.1	5.2						
Private Education	19.7	19.3	18.9	2.1	4.6						
Government	192.4	192.8	187.1	-0.2	2.9						
Federal	21.1	21.2	21.7	-0.2	-2.7						
State	56.1	56.8	55.0	-1.2	2.0						
Education	32.2	32.8	31.0	-2.0	3.8						
Local	115.2	114.9	110.4	0.3	4.4						
Education	63.7	63.1	61.3	1.0	3.9						

Note: Not all industry sub-groups are shown for every major industry category.

1/ Totals may not add because of roundings.

2/ Average earnings data are on a "gross" basis and are derived from reports of payroll for full-time and part-time production or non-supervisory workers. The payroll is reported before deductions of any kind. Bonuses, retroactive pay, tips, payment in kind, and "fringe benefits" are excluded.

Southern Minnesota

Labor Force Estimates

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990
REGION 6W	25,046	24,385	23,436	1,677	1,926	1,560	6.3	7.3	6.2
Big Stone	2,806	2,749	2,705	220	247	192	7.3	8.2	6.6
Chippewa	7,618	7,409	6,670	484	553	448	6.0	6.9	6.3
Lac Qui Parle	4,155	4,052	4,009	215	256	221	4.9	5.9	5.2
Swift	4,762	4,607	4,627	403	432	355	7.8	8.6	7.1
Yellow Med.	5,705	5,568	5,425	355	438	344	5.9	7.3	6.0
REGION 8	62,708	60,917	58,146	3,174	3,765	3,499	4.8	5.8	5.6
Cottonwood	6,180	5,998	5,985	377	443	307	5.7	6.9	4.9
Jackson	5,899	5,881	5,345	355	377	285	5.7	6.2	5.1
Lincoln	3,266	3,170	3,105	205	256	279	5.9	7.5	8.2
Lyon	12,963	12,587	11,972	638	803	731	4.7	6.0	5.8
Murray	4,773	4,657	4,534	321	385	418	6.3	7.6	8.4
Nobles	12,033	11,693	11,334	430	474	467	3.5	3.9	4.0
Pipestone	4,967	4,884	4,906	300	401	368	5.7	7.6	7.0
Redwood	7,697	7,454	7,367	370	426	446	4.6	5.4	5.7
Rock	4,930	4,793	4,598	178	200	198	3.5	4.0	4.1
REGION 9	111,720	108,614	106,011	6,442	7,794	6,167	5.5	6.7	5.5
Blue Earth	29,053	28,228	27,933	1,188	1,400	1,097	3.9	4.7	3.8
Brown	14,245	13,839	13,077	839	1,028	798	5.6	6.9	5.8
Faribault	7,513	7,318	7,230	641	761	711	7.9	9.4	9.0
LeSueur	10,314	10,066	9,990	1,084	1,342	976	9.5	11.8	8.9
Martin	11,525	11,255	10,695	762	881	752	6.2	7.3	6.6
Nicollet	15,860	15,409	15,248	604	706	621	3.7	4.4	3.9
Sibley	6,902	6,677	6,620	540	646	566	7.3	8.8	7.9
Waseca	10,086	9,788	9,285	484	601	382	4.6	5.8	4.0
Watonwan	6,222	6,034	5,933	300	429	264	4.6	6.6	4.3
REGION 10	226,337	220,179	214,920	12,176	13,854	12,605	5.1	5.9	5.5
Dodge	7,712	7,419	7,846	672	822	653	8.0	10.0	7.7
Fillmore	10,050	9,632	9,400	837	943	831	7.7	8.9	8.1
Freeborn	16,082	15,684	15,059	1,108	1,337	2,210	6.4	7.9	12.8
Goodhue	22,218	21,520	20,978	1,119	1,204	1,021	4.8	5.3	4.6
Houston	9,565	9,280	9,098	772	787	580	7.5	7.8	6.0
Mower	17,954	17,520	16,886	787	916	945	4.2	5.0	5.3
Olmsted	64,534	62,833	60,188	2,038	2,443	2,243	3.1	3.7	3.6
Rice	27,949	27,243	26,609	1,587	1,834	1,458	5.4	6.3	5.2
Steele	15,976	15,617	15,627	1,049	1,002	665	6.2	6.0	4.1
Wabasha	8,382	8,049	8,083	615	730	625	6.8	8.3	7.2
Winona	25,915	25,382	25,146	1,592	1,836	1,374	5.8	6.7	5.2
Rochester Cty	40,150	39,092	37,446	1,397	1,678	1,530	3.4	4.1	3.9

Rochester MSA Nonfarm Wage & Salary Jobs

Industry	Employment			% Change From	
	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	66,400	66,182	63,553	0.3	4.5
Goods Producing	13,735	13,751	13,581	-0.1	1.1
Construction and Mining	1,941	1,950	1,824	-0.5	6.4
Manufacturing	11,794	11,801	11,757	-0.1	0.3
Durable Goods	9,898	9,883	9,954	0.2	-0.6
Nondurable Goods	1,896	1,918	1,803	-1.1	5.2
Service Producing	52,665	52,431	49,972	0.4	5.4
Transp., Comm., & Util.	1,882	1,871	1,841	0.6	2.2
Trade	13,180	13,184	12,660	0.0	4.1
Wholesale	1,598	1,601	1,578	-0.2	1.3
Retail	11,582	11,583	11,082	0.0	4.5
Finan., Insur., & Re. Estate	1,785	1,790	1,763	-0.3	1.2
Services	28,758	28,569	26,865	0.7	7.0
Health	19,403	19,344	18,091	0.3	7.3
Other Services	9,355	9,225	8,774	1.4	6.6
Government	7,060	7,017	6,843	0.6	3.2

Southern Minnesota's Job Market May Even Be Improving During The Recession

Unemployment rates remained equal to last March's or even dropped. They dropped especially in Region 10 now that Freeborn County's Farmsted Foods has reopened. Mower County's low rate probably is due to its proximity to Albert Lea and the Farmsted plant. The Rochester MSA's jobless rate dropped from 3.7% in February to 3.1% in March, nearly as low as its ever been. Last March the rate was 3.6%.

Employment, if the figures can believed, jumped 7.2% or 4,346 jobs over the year in the MSA. Last year the increase was 1.8% or 1,038 jobs.

Payroll data tells a similar, but less dramatic story. Unlike the state as a whole where the number of payroll jobs remained unchanged over the year, the Rochester MSA created 2,847 of them, a 4.5% jump. Against the last five years' March-to-March average increase of 3.3%, it was even better than business as usual.

Although construction/mining jobs increased 6.4% over the year in the MSA, and nondurable goods manufacturing added 5.2% more workers, it was the service producers that created 93% of the jobs.

Service remains the stunning success in the MSA. It forged ahead with 1,893 new jobs, a 7.0% leap over last March. All but 518 of them were in health services. Retail trade added 500 new jobs (up 4.5%), and government rose by over 200 jobs, or 3.2%.

The 0.3% rise in payroll jobs between February and March was about typical for the MSA and consistent with the dropping unemployment rate.

By Ron Daws

Central and Northwest Minnesota

Labor Force Estimates

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990
REGION 1	**42,426**	**41,079**	**39,939**	**4,617**	**5,275**	**4,278**	**9.8**	**11.4**	**9.7**
Kittson	2,534	2,411	2,393	301	303	264	10.6	11.2	9.9
Marshall	4,622	4,444	4,414	985	1,143	951	17.6	20.5	17.7
Norman	3,544	3,450	3,356	355	385	358	9.1	10.0	9.6
Pennington	6,547	6,296	6,169	986	1,099	736	13.1	14.9	10.7
Polk	14,578	14,282	13,861	1,171	1,401	1,206	7.4	8.9	8.0
Red Lake	1,578	1,445	1,412	343	416	372	17.9	22.4	20.9
Roseau	9,023	8,751	8,334	476	528	391	5.0	5.7	4.5
REGION 2	**30,532**	**29,488**	**29,104**	**3,285**	**3,900**	**3,204**	**9.7**	**11.7**	**9.9**
Beltrami	16,498	15,946	15,581	1,281	1,508	1,238	7.2	8.6	7.4
Clearwater	3,160	3,052	3,092	888	1,068	871	21.9	25.9	22.0
Hubbard	6,354	6,104	6,230	750	907	753	10.6	12.9	10.8
Lake of Woods	2,083	2,007	1,873	80	75	73	3.7	3.6	3.8
Mahnomen	2,437	2,379	2,328	286	342	269	10.5	12.6	10.4
REGION 4	**97,889**	**95,113**	**92,459**	**7,173**	**8,971**	**7,071**	**6.8**	**8.6**	**7.1**
Becker	13,297	12,947	12,661	1,302	1,562	1,302	8.9	10.8	9.3
Clay	25,395	24,797	24,080	1,487	1,777	1,348	5.5	6.7	5.3
Douglas	15,763	15,305	14,638	1,032	1,113	978	6.1	6.8	6.3
Grant	2,946	2,893	2,807	294	318	322	9.1	9.9	10.3
Otter Tail	25,093	24,232	23,591	2,024	2,960	2,053	7.5	10.9	8.0
Pope	4,710	4,579	4,507	447	530	446	8.7	10.4	9.0
Stevens	5,273	5,125	4,961	236	307	259	4.3	5.7	5.0
Traverse	2,026	1,952	1,969	146	182	168	6.7	8.5	7.9
Wilkin	3,386	3,283	3,245	205	222	195	5.7	6.3	5.7
REGION 5	**58,538**	**56,725**	**55,647**	**6,597**	**7,620**	**6,103**	**10.1**	**11.8**	**9.9**
Cass	8,223	7,855	7,614	1,210	1,377	1,159	12.8	14.9	13.2
Crow Wing	21,112	20,421	20,089	1,829	2,137	1,729	8.0	9.5	7.9
Morrison	13,546	13,178	13,102	1,793	2,190	1,663	11.7	14.3	11.3
Todd	10,746	10,440	10,183	1,255	1,295	1,041	10.5	11.0	9.3
Wadena	4,911	4,831	4,659	510	621	511	9.4	11.4	9.9
REGION 6E	**55,820**	**54,306**	**51,923**	**3,834**	**4,264**	**3,623**	**6.4**	**7.3**	**6.5**
Kandiyohi	21,033	20,292	19,430	1,200	1,292	1,000	5.4	6.0	4.9
McLeod	17,001	16,607	16,111	958	1,107	948	5.3	6.2	5.6
Meeker	8,898	8,702	8,179	1,046	1,169	881	10.5	11.8	9.7
Renville	8,888	8,705	8,203	630	696	794	6.6	7.4	8.8
REGION 7E	**50,855**	**49,444**	**49,217**	**5,773**	**6,611**	**5,487**	**10.2**	**11.8**	**10.0**
Chisago	14,019	13,654	13,692	1,530	1,726	1,487	9.8	11.2	9.8
Isanti	11,870	11,561	11,594	1,119	1,249	1,006	8.6	9.8	8.0
Kanabec	5,281	5,126	5,181	839	916	867	13.7	15.2	14.3
Mille Lacs	10,227	9,929	9,490	984	1,134	872	8.8	10.3	8.4
Pine	9,458	9,174	9,260	1,301	1,586	1,255	12.1	14.7	11.9
REGION 7W	**129,033**	**127,428**	**125,318**	**10,661**	**11,943**	**9,996**	**7.6**	**8.6**	**7.4**
Benton	15,229	15,110	14,763	1,219	1,442	1,186	7.4	8.7	7.4
Sherburne	18,716	18,569	18,143	1,691	2,096	1,542	8.3	10.1	7.8
Stearns	62,620	62,127	60,701	4,627	4,797	4,374	6.9	7.2	6.7
Wright	32,468	31,622	31,711	3,124	3,608	2,894	8.8	10.2	8.4
St. Cloud MSA	96,565	95,806	93,607	7,536	8,335	7,102	7.2	8.0	7.1

St. Cloud MSA Nonfarm Wage & Salary Jobs

Industry	Employment			% Change From	
	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	**77,559**	**78,774**	**76,887**	-1.5	0.9
Goods Producing	**16,757**	**16,870**	**16,800**	-0.7	-0.3
Construction and Mining	2,327	2,435	2,926	-4.4	-20.5
Manufacturing	14,430	14,435	13,874	0.0	4.0
Durable Goods	8,270	8,281	8,333	-0.1	-0.8
Nondurable Goods	6,160	6,154	5,541	0.1	11.2
Service Producing	**60,802**	**61,904**	**60,087**	-1.8	1.2
Transp., Comm., & Util.	3,923	3,883	3,746	1.0	4.7
Trade	22,820	23,129	23,047	-1.3	-1.0
Wholesale	3,579	3,625	3,646	-1.3	-1.8
Retail	19,241	19,504	19,401	-1.3	-0.8
Finan., Insur., & Re. Estate	2,503	2,541	2,435	-1.5	2.8
Services	18,438	18,419	17,734	0.1	4.0
Health	6,189	6,185	5,598	0.1	10.6
Other Services	12,249	12,234	12,136	0.1	0.9
Government	13,118	13,932	13,125	-5.8	-0.1

Unemployment Rates Settle Back To Levels Near Last March's

It may be that February's jobless rates were a statistical blip and not as high as the methodology portrayed them. Anyway, rates dropped back to levels similar to last March's. Still, many of them such as the St. Cloud MSA's at 7.2%, were as high as they've been since 1987.

Although total employment data shows a healthy over-the-year jump, based on payroll data, job creation in the St. Cloud MSA probably continues to slow, with less than 1% more jobs over the year. Last year, payroll jobs grew 1.6% from March-March.. During the last five years, growth averaged 4.9%.

The most dramatic over-the-year gains were the more than 600 nondurable goods producing workers, over 700 service workers, and nearly 200 transportation/public utility workers. Those gains, however, were largely counteracted by the 600 fewer workers in construction/mining.

Not since 1985 has the construction/mining job level been this low (2,327) during March. Services, conversely, has steadily and swiftly generated new jobs in the MSA since at least 1974, as far back as our series goes. Services, in fact, generated 83.7% additional jobs between 1980 and 1990 compared to retail trade's 59.1% more.

The 1.5% drop in the MSA's payroll jobs over the month is typical of a slowing economy. The problem was construction/mining, which rather than hire seasonal workers, let go over 100 of them. Government's 800 worker drop due to the spring school break should be temporary.

By Ron Daws

Northeast Minnesota

Unemployment Rates Drop Over The Month To Roughly Equal Last Year's

Region 3's unemployment rate dropped from 9.2% in February to 7.8% in March, the same rate as last March. Koochiching County's high rate could be due to the major completion of construction at the Boise Cascade plant, and Lake county's rate may be due to mining layoffs. Duluth performed even better, dropping from 6.9% in February to 5.8% in March. Last March Duluth's rate was 6.1%. These low rates could be the result of random sampling error in the methodology, so it will be interesting to see if the trend is continued next month.

Coupled with low jobless rates, employment in the region grew more than usual over the month. Often it drops between February and March.

Perhaps a better indicator of Duluth's job growth is its nonfarm payroll series. Growth in this series has slowed to one percent over the year. Last March the gain from the previous March was 2.5%, and the gain during the past five years has averaged 4.1%. This is not the rosy picture painted by the total employment figures (resident based). Duluth still performed somewhat better than the state average which increased not at all.

It was the goods producers that faltered. There were 9% fewer nondurable goods producing jobs in Duluth this March than a year ago, and 5.8% fewer construction/mining jobs. Together they lost 326 workers. It was the first March-March nondurable goods job loss since 1983-1984. Durable goods jobs, conversely, rose 48 (3.1%) over the year, and health service jobs jumped by 482 (8.3%).

Since February, the number of nonfarm payroll jobs in Duluth remained unchanged. Usually, by March the economy is coming out of the winter doldrums, and there is a small net job increase. Excepting for the loss of 53 durable goods producing jobs (-3.3%), there was little movement among Duluth's major industry sectors over the month.

By Ron Daws

Labor Force Estimates

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990
REGION 3	139,730	135,075	133,587	11,825	13,609	11,364	7.8	9.2	7.8
Aitkin	5,216	5,062	4,887	691	839	702	11.7	14.2	12.6
Carlton	12,126	11,829	11,616	1,215	1,390	1,150	9.1	10.5	9.0
Cook	2,551	2,469	2,385	200	250	254	7.3	9.2	9.6
Itasca	16,832	16,331	15,919	1,696	2,013	1,967	9.2	11.0	11.0
Koochiching	8,623	8,410	9,709	889	877	580	9.3	9.4	5.6
Lake	4,238	4,123	3,999	571	699	361	11.9	14.5	8.3
St. Louis	90,144	86,851	85,072	6,563	7,541	6,350	6.8	8.0	6.9
City of Duluth	39,135	37,705	36,933	2,388	2,795	2,397	5.8	6.9	6.1
Balance St. Louis	51,009	49,146	48,139	4,175	4,746	3,953	7.6	8.8	7.6

Duluth & Duluth Superior MSA Nonfarm Wage & Salary Jobs

Industry	DULUTH					DULUTH SUPERIOR				
	Employment			% Change From		Employment			% Change From	
	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990	Month Ago	Year Ago	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	49,208	49,194	48,744	0.0	1.0	97,814	97,207	94,915	0.6	3.1
Goods Producing	5,367	5,398	5,645	-0.6	-4.9	16,894	16,755	16,487	0.8	2.6
Mining	Small, combined with construction					5,377	5,215	5,247	3.1	2.5
Construction	1,368	1,388	1,452	-1.4	-5.8	2,940	3,020	2,891	-2.6	1.7
Manufacturing	3,999	4,010	4,193	-0.3	-4.6	8,577	8,520	8,329	0.7	3.0
Durable Goods	1,574	1,627	1,526	-3.3	3.1	4,598	4,627	4,306	-0.6	6.8
Nondurable Goods	2,425	2,383	2,667	1.8	-9.1	3,979	3,893	4,023	2.2	-1.1
Service Producing	43,841	43,796	43,099	0.1	1.7	80,920	80,452	78,448	0.6	3.2
Transp., Comm., & Util.	2,869	2,859	2,887	0.3	-0.6	5,781	5,754	5,546	0.5	4.2
Trade	11,644	11,772	11,510	-1.1	1.2	23,898	23,860	23,567	0.2	1.4
Wholesale	1,884	1,884	1,862	0.0	1.2	3,838	3,850	3,828	-0.3	0.3
Retail	9,760	9,888	9,648	-1.3	1.2	20,060	20,010	19,739	0.2	1.6
Finan., Insur., & Re. Estate	1,951	1,951	1,926	0.0	1.3	3,272	3,255	3,170	0.5	3.2
Services	15,037	14,895	14,460	1.0	4.0	25,264	25,008	24,150	1.0	4.6
Health	6,296	6,163	5,814	2.2	8.3	10,212	10,001	9,482	2.1	7.7
Other Services	8,741	8,732	8,646	0.1	1.1	15,052	15,007	14,668	0.3	2.6
Government	12,340	12,319	12,316	0.2	0.2	22,705	22,575	22,015	0.6	3.1

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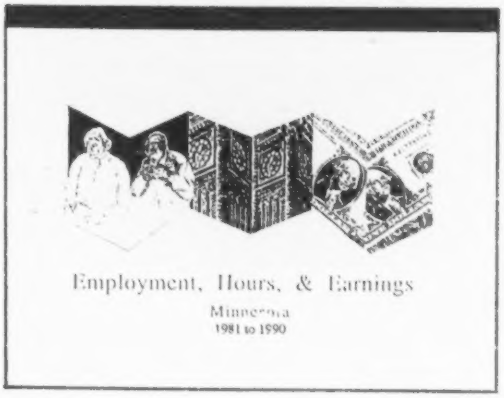
For Your Information

Two New Publications to be Released

Just in case you've ever wanted job counts by industry, plus average hours worked and earnings of production workers, we will be releasing two publications during May. One is *Employment, Hours and Earnings, Minnesota 1981 to 1990*, and the other is *Employment , Hours and Earnings, Minneapolis-St. Paul Area 1981 to 1990*. Both of these historical series are based on revised job counts developed from an employer survey. To request a copy, call (612) 296-6545.



Employment, Hours, & Earnings
Minnesota
1981 to 1990

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Minnesota Labor Market Review

June 1991

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Job forecasts suggest slight improvement (page 4)

Metropolitan areas of the state are affected to varying degrees by the recession (pages 6-11)

Clues to how far your paycheck goes nowadays compared to before are revealed in *Getting a Handle on the Cost of Living* (page 13)

A look at how well we forecast employment in *Policing Our Forecasts* (page 17)

Minnesota

Mild Recession Still Lingering

Despite signs of renewed vigor in retail sales and housing starts, the job market has not followed suit. Payroll employment rose in April, but by less than it usually does, leading to a drop of 2,000 jobs on a seasonally-adjusted basis. It was the fifth fall in the last six months, indicating that the recession is still with us.

Manufacturing rebounded as some of the large firms which laid off workers in droves during the winter months began to call them back. Job growth in manufacturing was the strongest since May of 1990. Other sectors were weak. Construction and trade businesses added far fewer employees during this warm weather pickup, and government jobs, which also typically expand during the spring months didn't this year.

Surprisingly, the unemployment rate is not going up. At 5.0% in April, it stands below its year-ago level -- after nine straight months of being higher. The 12-month average unemployment rate also is at 5.0%, and has stopped rising. There is a good chance that Minnesota's unemployment rate has now peaked. From a 12-month low of 4.0% in December 1988, the rise has been erratic, but not substantial. While the national recessionmay have turned out to be rather average, the same cannot be said for our state.

Minnesota job losses in this recession pale compared to ones in our recent past (table).

While more job losses may occur in the months ahead, their numbers would need to double to equal even the mildest of recent downturns. If the manufacturing upsurge continues, this is unlikely. Meanwhile, job losses in the U.S. have proceeded at the pace of previous recessions and manufacturing has yet to rebound.

Minnesota Job Losses During Recessions

		Net Job Losses	
Time Period	Months	Number	Percent
Aug '74 to Apr '75	8	-35,000	-2.3%
Dec '79 to Jul '80	7	-32,600	-1.8%
Dec '80 to Nov '82	23	-86,900	-4.9%
Oct '90 to Apr '91	6	-15,400	-0.7%

By Don Hilber

Current Labor Force Series

	Minnesota (In Thousands)			% Change From		United States (In Thousands)			% Change From	
	Apr 91	Mar 91	Apr 90	Mar 91	Apr 90	Apr 91	Mar 91	Apr 90	Mar 91	Apr 90
Labor Force	2429.0	2336.6	2,337.3	-0.3	3.9	124,727	124,443	123,816	0.2	0.7
Employment	2306.4	2298.9	2,208.0	0.3	4.5	116.678	115,639	117,359	0.9	-0.6
Unemployment	122.5	137.7	129.4	-11.0	-5.3	8,049	8,804	6,457	-8.6	24.7
Actual Unemp. Rate	5.0	5.7	5.5	-	-	6.5	7.1	5.2	-	-
Seasonally Adj. Rate	-	-	-	-	-	6.6	6.8	5.4	-	-

Minnesota Nonfarm Wage & Salary Jobs, Hours & Earnings

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT 1/ (thousands)			PERCENT CHANGE FROM		PRODUCTION WORKERS & HOURS & EARNINGS 2/					
						Average Weekly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings	
	Apr. 1991	Mar. 1991	Apr. 1990	Mar. 1991	Apr. 1990	Apr. 1991	Apr. 1990	Apr. 1991	Apr. 1990	Apr. 1991	Apr. 1990
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	2,109.9	2,088.6	2,109.7	1.0	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goods Producing	461.0	451.8	474.2	2.0	-2.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mining	8.2	7.6	7.8	7.5	4.2	668.39	624.26	43.8	43.9	15.26	14.22
Metal Mining	6.5	6.4	6.1	1.3	7.0	705.70	646.21	44.3	43.9	15.93	14.72
Construction	67.2	60.9	73.2	10.4	-8.1	672.77	626.62	38.4	38.0	17.52	16.49
Manufacturing	385.6	383.2	393.2	0.6	-1.9	461.20	442.46	40.0	39.4	11.53	11.23
Durable Goods	218.8	216.4	229.0	1.1	-4.5	475.47	453.93	40.5	40.1	11.74	11.32
Lumber and Furniture	21.9	20.8	22.0	5.5	-0.3	483.04	492.36	37.3	37.7	12.95	13.06
Stone, Clay and Glass	7.8	7.0	8.4	11.7	-7.1	484.30	470.20	40.8	41.5	11.87	11.33
Primary Metals	6.1	6.1	6.4	0.3	-4.5	490.88	435.01	41.6	39.8	11.80	10.93
Fabricated Metals	33.5	33.4	34.6	0.3	-3.1	516.66	478.72	41.7	41.7	12.39	11.48
Industrial Machinery	73.3	73.5	77.6	-0.3	-5.5	511.29	455.86	41.4	39.4	12.35	11.57
Office and Computing	32.0	32.2	34.7	-0.4	-7.6	533.02	467.83	43.3	40.4	12.31	11.58
Electronic Equipment	28.9	29.2	30.0	-0.9	-3.4	397.07	393.96	40.6	40.2	9.78	9.80
Transportation Equipment	8.7	8.1	11.2	7.6	-22.3	448.82	511.29	38.1	41.4	11.78	12.35
Instruments and Related	32.7	32.5	32.7	0.5	0.0	457.45	438.48	41.7	41.8	10.97	10.49
Misc. Manufacturing	5.8	5.8	6.2	0.8	-6.0	389.76	412.50	38.1	37.5	10.23	11.00
Nondurable Goods	166.8	166.8	164.2	0.0	1.6	441.78	426.62	39.2	38.4	11.27	11.11
Food & Beverage Products	47.4	47.7	45.5	-0.4	4.3	391.17	383.13	39.0	38.7	10.03	9.90
Textiles & Apparel	4.6	4.7	4.8	-2.3	-3.2	285.93	286.18	35.3	34.9	8.10	8.20
Paper Products	34.4	34.4	33.6	0.0	2.2	575.53	552.28	42.6	41.4	13.51	13.34
Printing and Publishing	52.4	52.3	51.5	0.3	1.7	418.10	419.07	37.0	36.6	11.30	11.45
Chemicals and Petroleum	11.4	11.3	11.8	0.3	-3.2	555.96	509.35	40.7	39.7	13.66	12.83
Rubber, Plastic & Leather	16.6	16.5	17.0	0.6	-2.6	425.14	377.52	40.8	38.8	10.42	9.73
Service Producing	1,648.9	1,636.8	1,635.5	0.7	0.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transp., Comm., & Util.	107.6	106.7	107.7	0.8	-0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	73.2	72.5	73.3	0.9	-0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trucking & Warehousing	26.2	26.1	26.8	0.6	-2.1	391.95	415.74	32.5	33.5	12.06	12.41
Communication & Utilities	34.4	34.2	34.5	0.7	-0.2	634.07	599.84	38.9	38.6	16.30	15.54
Trade	505.0	499.2	510.8	1.2	-1.1	244.81	236.87	28.7	29.1	8.53	8.14
Wholesale	124.5	122.4	125.5	1.7	-0.8	417.36	410.28	37.0	37.4	11.28	10.97
Retail	380.5	376.9	385.3	1.0	-1.2	194.36	186.63	26.3	26.7	7.37	6.99
Building Materials	17.7	16.8	17.7	6.0	0.4	317.30	362.11	35.1	38.4	9.04	9.43
General Merchandise	52.4	53.3	55.6	-1.7	-5.7	188.23	176.75	24.8	25.0	7.59	7.07
Food Stores	54.1	53.7	53.3	0.7	1.5	212.22	194.21	26.2	27.2	8.10	7.14
Automotive	43.2	42.7	43.2	1.2	0.0	298.38	301.66	34.1	35.2	8.75	8.57
Apparel	19.1	19.3	19.8	-0.9	-3.7	126.26	130.08	20.8	21.5	6.07	6.05
Home Furnishings	14.8	14.8	15.2	-0.5	-3.0	287.88	275.95	31.6	32.2	9.11	8.57
Eating and Drinking	129.4	126.5	131.2	2.4	-1.4	127.68	116.03	22.4	22.4	5.70	5.18
Fin., Insur., Real Estate	125.1	124.3	123.3	0.7	1.5						
Finance	56.9	56.7	56.3	0.3	1.1						
Insurance	47.1	47.1	46.1	0.0	2.1						
Real Estate	21.2	20.5	20.9	3.0	1.2						
Services	562.8	558.6	546.5	0.8	3.0						
Personal Services	25.7	25.7	25.5	0.2	0.9						
Business Services	92.4	92.3	91.2	0.0	1.3						
Repair Services	23.5	23.7	23.1	-1.0	1.7						
Health Services	170.9	170.8	164.6	0.1	3.8						
Nursing Homes	43.9	43.8	43.4	0.2	1.2						
Hospitals	57.3	57.5	55.4	-0.3	3.5						
Legal Services	16.0	16.0	15.6	0.2	2.4						
Private Education	35.9	35.6	35.4	0.9	1.5						
Government	348.3	348.0	347.1	0.1	0.4						
Federal	33.9	33.7	37.0	0.5	-8.6						
State	87.5	86.0	87.2	1.8	0.4						
Education	50.2	49.0	49.6	2.6	1.3						
Local	227.0	228.3	222.9	-0.6	1.8						
Education	123.4	125.0	122.0	-1.2	1.2						

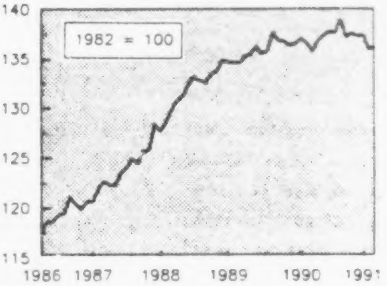
Note: Not all industry sub-groups are shown for every major industry category.

1/ Totals may not add because of rounding.

2/ Average earnings data are on a "gross" basis and are derived from reports of payroll for full-time and part-time production or non-supervisory workers. The payroll is reported before deductions of any kind. Bonuses, retroactive pay, tips, payment in kind, and "fringe benefits" are excluded.

Economic Indicators

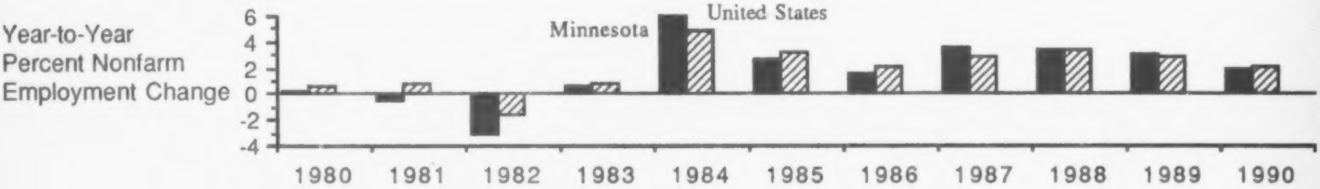
Minnesota's **coincident index** rose slightly from February to March, but is still down from its peak in October 1990. The depth and duration of the decline signals a recession despite recent gains in business startups, sales and housing starts. This index combines and tracks three components of the economy: wage and salary jobs, retail sales and total manufacturing hours. More detail is published monthly in ***Minnesota Economic Indicators***, available by calling (612) 296-6545.



1990	MAR	136.5
	APR	135.6
	MAY	136.7
	JUN	137.3
	JUL	137.6
	AUG	137.6
	SEP	138.8
	OCT	137.1
	NOV	137.5
	DEC	137.2
1991	JAN	137.3
	FEB	135.9
	MAR	136.0

% Change From
Month Ago 0.1%
Year Ago -0.4%

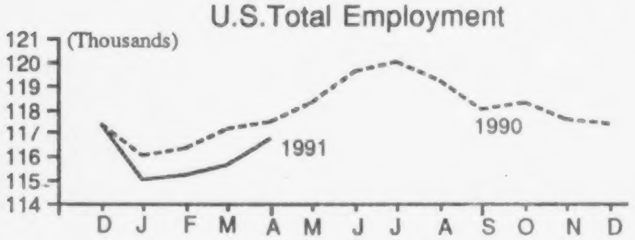
Historical Labor Force and Payroll Job Series

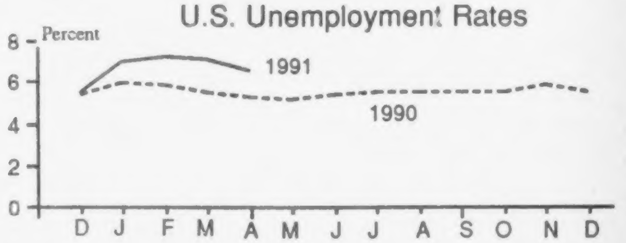


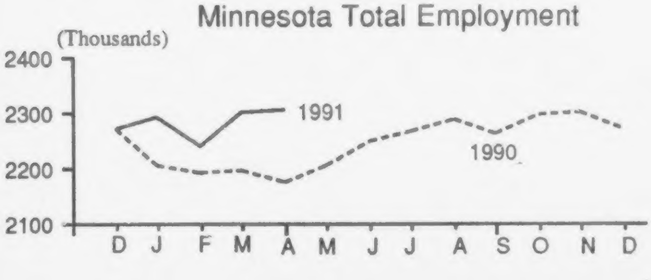
	(In Thousands)	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Mn	Labor Force	2110.0	2154.0	2167.0	2176.0	2227.0	2233.0	2230.0	2259.0	2327.0	2343.0	2404.3
	Employment	1985.0	2035.0	1998.0	1998.0	2086.0	2091.0	2111.0	2137.0	2233.0	2241,0	2287.9
	Nonfarm Payroll*	1770.0	1761.3	1707.3	1718.2	1819.8	1865.4	1893.9	1962.5	2028.0	2086.8	2126.4
	Unemployment	125.0	119.0	170.0	178.0	1451.0	133.0	119.0	122.0	94.0	102.0	116.4
	Unemployment Rate	5.9	5.5	7.8	8.2	6.3	6.0	5.3	5.4	4.0	4.4	4.8
U.S.	Labor Force	106940	108670	110205	111550	113544	115461	117835	119865	121669	123869	124787
	Employment	99303	100397	99526	100834	105005	107150	109598	112440	114968	117342	117914
	Nonfarm Payroll*	90406	91156	89566	90200	94496	97519	99525	102200	105536	108413	110330
	Unemployment	7637	8273	10678	10717	8539	8312	8237	7425	6700	6528	6874
	Unemployment Rate	7.1	7.6	9.7	9.6	7.5	7.2	7.0	6.2	5.5	5.3	5.5

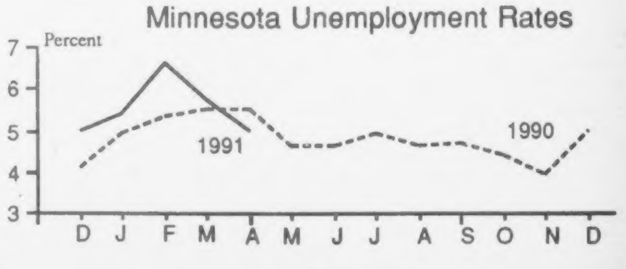
* Total employment is an estimate of the number of working Minnesotans; nonfarm payroll jobs are establishment based and reflect multiple job holding.

Total Employment & Unemployment Rates, 1990 & 1991









Forecasts of Real GNP and Minnesota Employment

Our forecasts show slightly improving economic conditions. The national economy, which largely drives economic conditions in Minnesota, is forecasted to grow 2.7% from the second quarter of 1991 (1991:2) through the same quarter of 1992 (1992:2). We see 2.1% growth for the two year period of 1991:2 - 1993:2.

The same is true for Minnesota employment. We forecast growth of 2.7% for 1991:2 - 1992:2, with 2.8% overall.

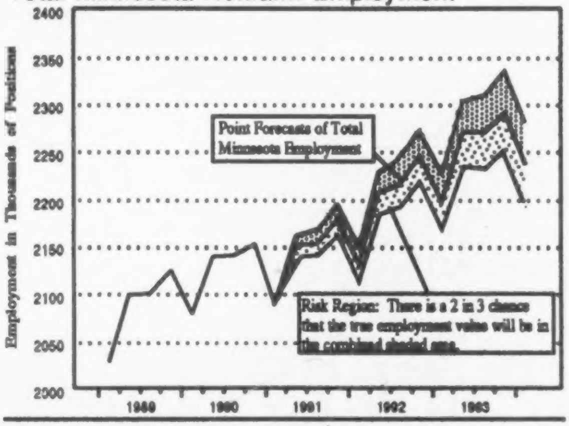
Employment in durables manufacturing, at 4.4% for 1991:2 - 1992:2, and in services are expected to experience the strongest growth. Construction, at 1.0% for 1991:2 - 1992:1, nondurables and wholesale trade show the slowest growth, although construction shows some improvement (1.8% growth) in the second year.

The table below gives the percent error in our forecasts of RGNP and state employment for 1991:1. The positive value assigned to these errors indicates that the forecasts were too optimistic.

The quarter-by-quarter forecasts running from 1991:2 through 1992:1 provide the point forecast and its standard error computed from a sample of forecasts generated from 1000 random shocks to the system. This is what we defined last time as the risk region.

Our purpose is to indicate the imprecision, which we called risk, inherent in forecasts. The smaller the risk region the more confident we are about the forecast. Roughly speaking, there is a two in three chance that the true value will be in the combined shaded area around the point forecasts (e.g. between 2138.5 and 2166.0 for Minnesota employment in 1991:3). Conversely, there is a one in three chance that the true value will be outside the shaded areas. Clearly, as the shaded area becomes smaller and smaller, the odds increase that the forecast will be closer to the actual value.

Total Minnesota Nonfarm Employment



These forecasts are the result of an expanded forecasting model. Risk regions associated with the forecasts from our new model are somewhat smaller than those from the model used up to this time. To that extent, readers can place more confidence in them.

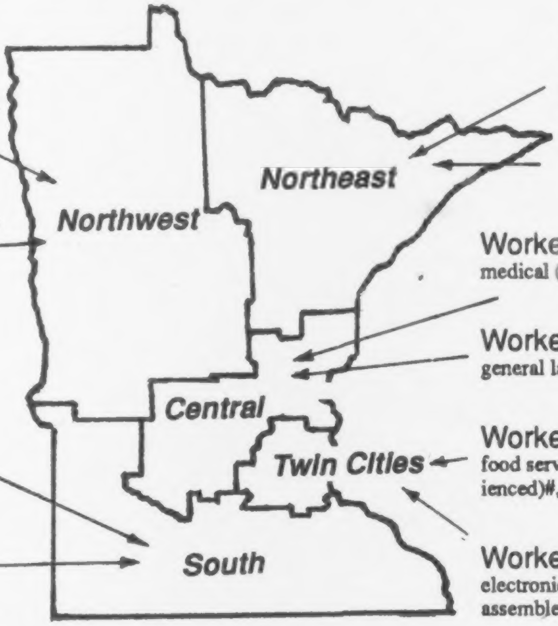
Actual First Quarter 1991 and Forecasted for Real Gross National Product and MN Employment Levels

	Actual + % Error	Forecasted ± Risk Region Boundaries				Percent Change	
	1991:1	1991:2	1991:3	1991:4	1992:1	91-92	92-93
Real GNP	4126.5 + 1.2%	4145.9 ± 37.3	4172.7 ± 54.3	4201.8 ± 65.7	4230.4 ± 74.5	2.7%	1.6%
MN NonAg Employment	2085.4 + 0.8	2148.3 ± 10.5	2152.5 ± 14.0	2177.2 ± 16.3	2129.7 ± 17.5	2.7	2.8
Mining	7.4	8.0 ± 0.9	8.1 ± 1.1	7.6 ± 1.0	7.1 ± 1.0	4.3	-0.2
Construction	61.2	76.9 ± 2.8	86.6 ± 3.9	78.2 ± 3.6	60.7 ± 2.8	1.0	1.8
Manufacturing	384.5	389.1 ± 4.0	400.1 ± 6.1	395.6 ± 7.3	391.6 ± 7.9	3.3	3.1
Durables	217.7	221.0 ± 3.5	224.6 ± 5.3	224.8 ± 6.4	222.7 ± 6.9	4.4	4.1
NonDurables	166.8	168.0 ± 1.7	175.5 ± 2.1	170.8 ± 2.2	168.9 ± 2.2	1.7	1.7
Trans. Comm. & Pub. Util.	106.9	108.8 ± 1.5	108.8 ± 1.9	110.9 ± 2.0	108.9 ± 2.1	2.6	2.6
Trade	500.3	517.7 ± 4.1	524.8 ± 4.9	524.7 ± 5.5	507.5 ± 5.7	2.0	2.1
Wholesale	122.3	125.8 ± 1.2	127.4 ± 1.5	125.7 ± 1.6	124.2 ± 1.7	1.9	1.5
Retail	378.0	391.9 ± 3.4	397.4 ± 4.2	398.9 ± 4.6	383.4 ± 4.7	2.0	2.3
Finance, Ins. & Real Est.	124.1	124.8 ± 0.8	126.3 ± 1.0	125.9 ± 1.2	125.6 ± 1.3	1.7	2.4
Services	553.4	569.1 ± 3.2	576.2 ± 3.9	579.4 ± 4.5	575.2 ± 4.8	4.2	4.1
Government	347.7	354.3 ± 3.4	321.4 ± 3.9	354.9 ± 4.5	353.0 ± 4.5	1.5	1.9

by Charles Cline

The Job Market - Regional Worker Job Shortages and Surplusses

A worker shortage exists when an occupation is difficult to fill or there are few qualified applicants. **A worker surplus** exists when there is a sizable excess of qualified applicants. A # after a job indicates that the shortage has persisted for at least two of the last three quarters.



Worker Shortage
mechanics (deisel, auto farm) food service workers#

Worker Surplus
construction laborers#, clerical (inexperienced)# general laborers# factory workers

Worker Shortage
food service worker#, medical (RN, LPN, aides)#, truck drivers (over the road)

Worker Surplus
clerical (inexperienced)#, construction laborers, assemblers

Worker Shortage
medical (RN, LPN, aides#, food service workers

Worker Surplus
construction laborers, clerical (inexperienced)#

Worker Shortage
medical (RN, LPN, nurce aide#

Worker Surplus
general laborers, clerical (inexperienced)#

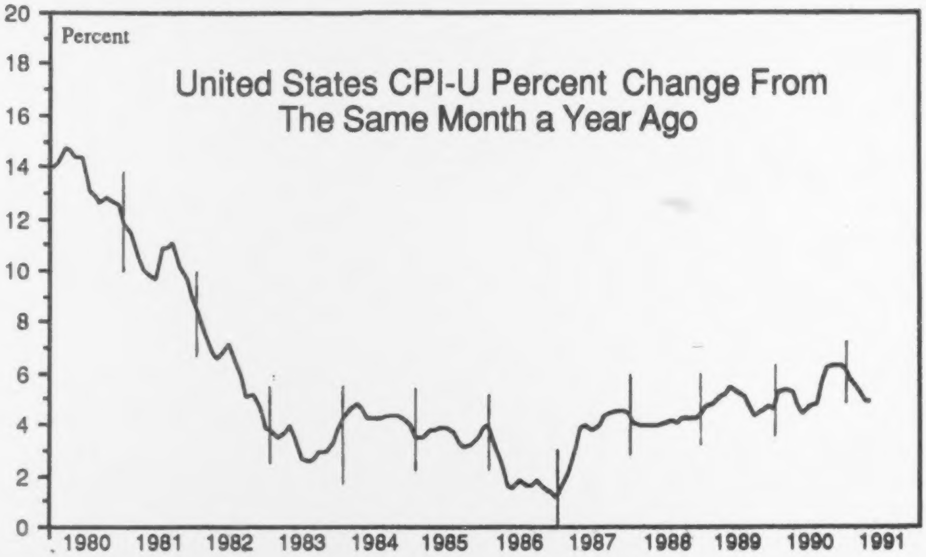
Worker Shortage
food service worker#, clerical (experienced)#, medical (RN, LPN, aides)

Worker Surplus
electronic technicians#, electronic engineers, assemblers, clerical (inexperienced)

Consumer Price Indexes (CPI-U)

CPI-U % Change From a Year Ago

	U.S.	Twin Cities
1990		1st
May	4.4	Half
Jun	4.7	Av.
Jul	4.8	4.3
Aug	5.6	
Sep	6.2	2nd
Oct	6.3	Half
Nov	6.3	Av.
Dec	6.1	3.8
A.A.	5.4	4.1
1991		
Jan	5.7	
Feb	5.3	
Mar	4.9	
Apr	4.9	

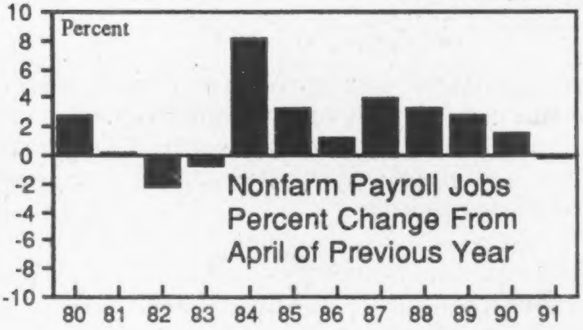


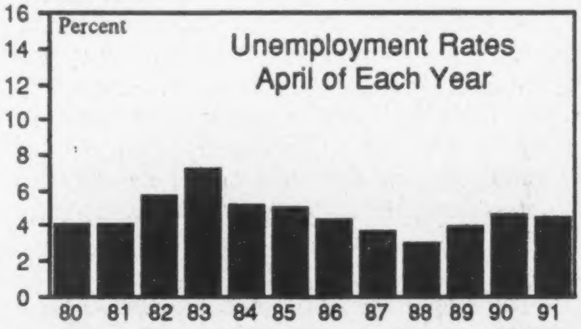
Twin Cities CPI data, which is available only for the first and second half of each year, is considered to be less reliable than the series for the U.S. For gauging state price changes the US CPI is best. Both the U.S and Twin Cities indexes (CPI-W and CPI-U) are available by calling (612) 296-6545.

Areas of the State

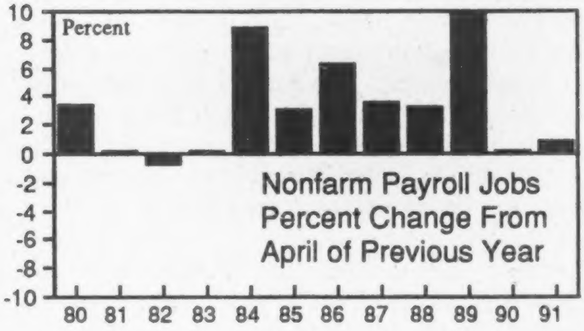
Nonfarm Jobs & Unemployment Rates for MN Metro Areas

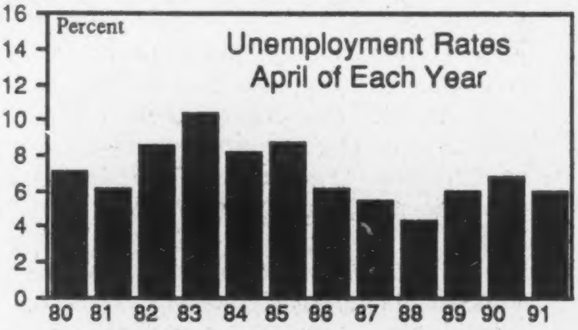
Minneapolis-St. Paul MSA



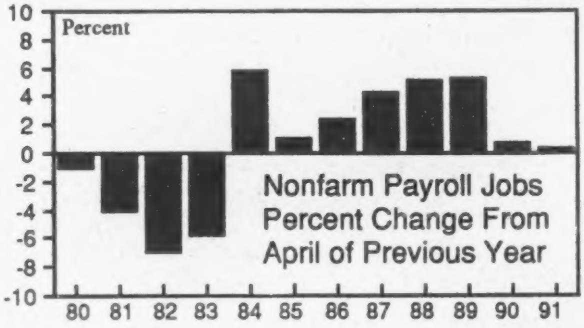


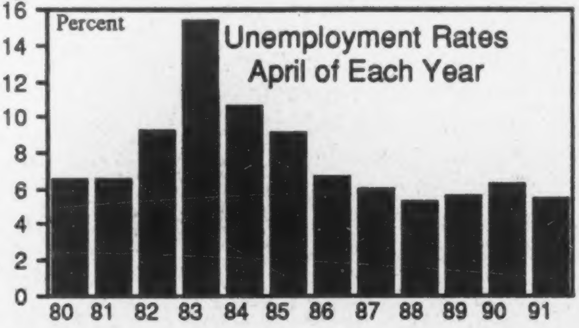
St. Cloud MSA



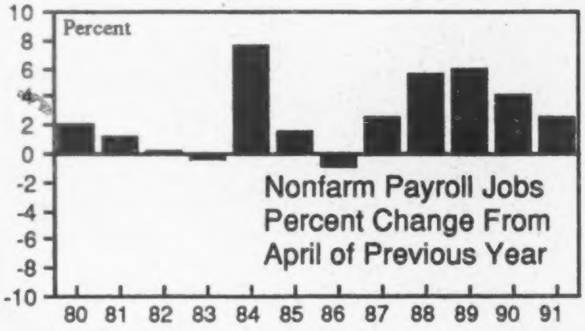


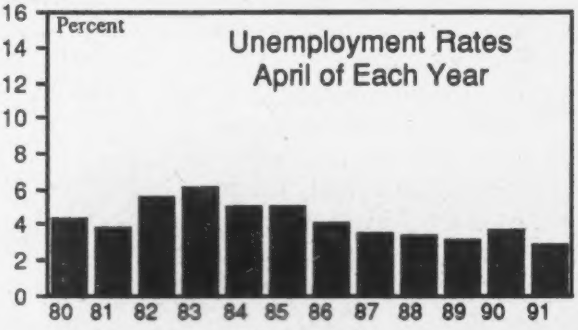
Duluth City





Rochester MSA





Minneapolis-St. Paul MSA

Jobless Rate Drops but Employment Growth Remains Sluggish

The unemployment rate for the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area dipped to 4.5% in April, a drop of 0.3 of a percentage point from March. This was the second consecutive monthly decline after a peak in February of 5.5%, The rate is now slightly below the April 1990 rate, the first time since June 1990 that the current month' rate is lower than a year ago.

The drop in the April jobless rate was primarily caused by unemployed people giving up on looking for work and dropping out of the labor force rather than more of them returning to jobs. The number of employed people in April was unchanged from March ,while the number of unemployed workers decreased by 8.0%. Over the past 11 years, employment increased an average of 0.3% between these two months, and unemployment declined by 4.4%.

The April survey of area firms also showed a somewhat more encouraging sign. On a seasonally adjusted basis, total nonfarms jobs rose in April for the first time since declining in four out of the previous five months.

The goods producing sector was down only modestly as a seasonally adjusted loss in the construction industry was nearly offset by job growth in durable goods manufacturing industries. There was an 8.2% increase in construction jobs in April which fell short of the nearly 10% increase which generally occurs at this time of the year. Despite the loss in April, there is evidence from increased residential construction permit activity that there is improvement in the industry compared to last year. Most of the increase in durable goods manufacturing jobs was in the lumber and wood products group, but there was encouraging broad-based strength throughout the rest of the durable groups. Of the nine durable goods industry group, five added jobs, three were unchanged, and only one lost jobs.

Another positive sign in April was the resurgence of jobs in the transportation/communication/utilities (TCPU) industry. On a seasonally adjusted basis, jobs rose this month after declining for nine consecutive months.

While the manufacturing sector and TCU seem to be showing signs of a turnaround, weak labor market conditions remain in the retail trade industry. On a seasonally adjusted basis, employment dropped by nearly 1,500 in April. It was the seventh time in the past eight months that retail jobs have been cut. The number of jobs actually increased by 0.7% over the month, but this was only half of the 11-year average increase. The number of jobs in department stores, apparel and home furnishings stores dropped in April.

In recent years, the service industries and government, particularly educational services, have been a prolific source of job creation. Some of that vigor apparently returned in April as there was a strong upturn in finance/insurance and real estate jobs as well as the service industries.

By Bruce Steuernagel

LABOR FORCE DATA

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	Apr. 1991	Mar. 1991	Apr. 1990	Apr. 1991	Mar. 1991	Apr. 1990	Apr. 1991	Mar. 1991	Apr. 1990
Mpls-St. Paul	1,349,194	1,349,715	1,312,785	63,064	68,580	63,793	4.5	4.8	4.6
REGION 11	1,267,206	1,267,983	1,231,742	56,581	60,443	58,016	4.3	4.5	4.5
Anoka	130,326	130,406	126,679	7,306	7,719	7,182	5.3	5.6	5.4
Carver	24,284	24,299	23,604	1,157	1,333	1,129	4.5	5.2	4.6
Dakota	142,720	142,807	138,726	6,638	7,558	6,261	4.4	5.0	4.3
Hennepin	599,589	599,957	582,810	25,152	25,295	26,528	4.0	4.0	4.4
Ramsey	268,128	268,292	260,624	11,109	12,060	11,822	4.0	4.3	4.3
Scott	28,711	28,729	27,907	1,768	2,086	1,593	5.8	6.8	5.7
Washington	73,448	73,493	71,392	3,451	4,392	3,401	4.5	5.6	4.5
Chisago	14,011	14,019	13,619	1,258	1,527	1,370	8.2	9.8	9.1
Isanti	11,863	11,871	11,531	992	1,116	947	7.7	8.6	7.6
Wright	32,449	32,469	31,541	2,574	3,117	2,580	7.3	8.8	7.6
St. Croix, WI	23,666	23,374	24,352	1,659	2,377	878	6.6	9.2	3.5
Bloomington	56,211	56,246	54,638	2,180	2,198	2,336	3.7	3.8	4.1
Minneapolis	197,732	197,854	192,199	9,189	9,197	9,909	4.4	4.4	4.9
St. Paul	138,247	138,331	134,378	6,873	7,461	7,324	4.7	5.1	5.2

Twin Cities Nonfarm Wage & Salary Jobs, Hours & Earnings

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT 1/ (thousands)			PERCENT CHANGE FROM		PRODUCTION WORKERS & HOURS & EARNINGS 2/					
						Average Weekly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings	
	Apr. 1991	Mar. 1991	Apr. 1990	Mar. 1991	Apr. 1990	Apr. 1991	Apr. 1990	Apr. 1991	Apr. 1990	Apr. 1991	Apr. 1990
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	1,358.7	1,347.5	1,361.2	0.8	-0.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goods Producing	296.3	290.9	308.1	1.9	-3.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mining	0.6	0.5	0.6	21.4	-8.2	735.90	678.68	44.6	42.9	16.50	15.82
Construction	43.2	39.9	47.4	8.2	-9.0	737.54	666.38	38.9	37.5	18.96	17.77
Manufacturing	252.5	250.5	260.1	0.8	-2.9	492.88	464.52	40.4	39.5	12.20	11.76
Durable Goods	147.5	145.9	156.0	1.1	-5.5	510.86	473.98	41.0	40.1	12.46	11.82
Lumber and Furniture	9.2	8.1	9.3	13.4	-0.9	540.85	547.94	37.3	37.3	14.50	14.69
Stone, Clay and Glass	2.6	2.3	2.8	13.1	-7.7	467.64	503.32	38.3	39.6	12.21	12.71
Primary Metals	4.4	4.4	4.6	-0.8	-4.8	498.61	423.60	41.9	39.7	11.90	10.67
Fabricated Metals	25.4	25.3	26.3	0.3	-3.4	558.15	485.85	43.1	41.0	12.95	11.85
Industrial Machinery	50.9	51.0	54.8	-0.2	-7.2	542.74	488.02	40.9	40.1	13.27	12.17
Office and Computing	20.7	20.8	23.5	-0.6	-11.9	601.52	568.98	41.2	43.6	14.60	13.05
Electronic Equipment	18.2	18.2	18.8	-0.3	-3.4	415.27	391.10	40.2	38.8	10.38	10.08
Transportation Equipment	3.3	3.2	5.7	1.9	-42.4	674.93	673.81	43.6	43.0	15.48	15.67
Instruments and Related	29.5	29.4	29.5	0.6	0.1	475.15	455.70	41.9	42.0	11.34	10.85
Misc. Manufacturing	4.0	4.0	4.2	1.1	-2.9	431.56	455.81	37.3	37.3	11.57	12.22
Nondurable Goods	105.1	104.6	104.1	0.5	0.9	470.05	452.80	39.7	38.8	11.84	11.67
Food & Beverage Products	18.3	18.0	18.2	1.7	0.7	479.23	469.77	41.1	41.1	11.66	11.43
Paper Products	26.2	26.2	25.8	0.0	1.5	513.35	483.15	41.2	39.7	12.46	12.17
Printing and Publishing	37.6	37.6	36.4	0.1	3.2	431.22	439.02	37.4	36.8	11.53	11.93
Chemicals and Petroleum	9.9	9.8	9.8	0.7	1.1	606.46	568.11	41.2	39.7	14.72	14.31
Rubber and Plastic	11.0	10.9	11.3	1.1	-2.5	447.02	391.82	41.7	39.3	10.72	9.97
Service Producing	1,062.4	1,056.6	1,053.1	0.5	0.9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transp. Comm., & Util.	75.2	74.8	76.0	0.6	-1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	53.8	53.4	54.5	0.8	-1.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trucking & Warehousing	16.2	16.1	17.2	0.8	-5.7	382.33	394.35	29.8	31.1	12.83	12.68
Communication & Utilities	21.4	21.4	21.6	-0.1	-0.7	623.57	587.52	38.9	38.3	16.03	15.34
Trade	319.9	317.7	326.4	0.7	-2.0	276.30	268.80	29.3	29.8	9.43	9.02
Wholesale	82.1	81.6	83.5	0.6	-1.7	469.23	454.13	37.3	37.5	12.58	12.11
Retail	237.7	236.1	242.9	0.7	-2.1	217.89	212.08	26.9	27.4	8.10	7.74
Building Materials	10.2	9.6	10.4	6.4	-2.4	376.23	446.35	35.9	40.8	10.48	10.94
General Merchandise	36.6	37.4	39.6	-2.2	-7.6	207.00	195.55	25.0	25.2	8.28	7.76
Food Stores	29.6	29.6	29.2	-0.2	1.1	264.60	257.93	28.0	28.5	9.45	9.05
Automotive	25.2	24.9	25.1	0.9	0.5	355.59	343.51	36.1	36.7	9.85	9.36
Apparel	12.8	12.9	13.2	-0.7	-3.3	123.41	131.87	20.1	20.8	6.14	6.34
Home Furnishings	10.1	10.2	10.6	-0.3	-4.7	333.70	307.20	31.6	31.9	10.56	9.63
Eating and Drinking	82.0	80.3	83.5	2.1	-1.8	142.78	132.21	22.7	23.4	6.29	5.65
Fin., Insur., Real Estate	97.5	96.9	96.1	0.6	1.5						
Finance	41.0	40.8	40.8	0.4	0.6						
Insurance	39.3	39.3	38.5	0.0	2.1						
Real Estate	17.2	16.7	16.8	2.8	2.1						
Services	377.8	375.1	365.5	0.7	3.4						
Personal Services	18.3	18.2	18.1	0.2	0.7						
Business Services	79.5	79.4	78.6	0.1	1.2						
Repair Services	17.2	17.4	17.0	-1.1	1.1						
Health Services	96.8	96.7	93.3	0.2	3.8						
Nursing Homes	22.8	22.8	22.8	0.2	0.0						
Hospitals	34.1	34.1	33.1	-0.1	2.9						
Legal Services	13.1	13.1	12.5	0.4	5.2						
Private Education	20.0	19.8	19.5	1.0	2.4						
Government	191.9	192.2	189.1	-0.1	1.5						
Federal	21.2	21.1	22.2	0.2	-4.8						
State	56.6	56.2	56.0	0.8	1.0						
Education	32.5	32.2	31.8	0.9	2.3						
Local	114.1	114.9	110.8	-0.6	3.0						
Education	62.1	63.3	60.6	-1.8	2.4						

Note: Not all industry sub-groups are shown for every major industry category.

1/ Totals may not add because of roundings.

2/ Average earnings data are on a "gross" basis and are derived from reports of payroll for full-time and part-time production or non-supervisory workers. The payroll is reported before deductions of any kind. Bonuses, retroactive pay, tips, payment in kind, and "fringe benefits" are excluded.

Southern Minnesota

LABOR FORCE DATA	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	Apr. 1991	Mar. 1991	Apr. 1990	Apr. 1991	Mar. 1991	Apr. 1990	Apr. 1991	Mar. 1991	Apr. 1990
REGION 6W	**25,594**	**25,049**	**23,191**	**1,278**	**1,675**	**1,285**	**4.8**	**6.3**	**5.3**
Big Stone	2,871	2,806	2,667	181	220	164	5.9	7.3	5.8
Chippewa	7,680	7,619	6,575	367	484	392	4.6	6.0	5.6
Lac Qui Parle	4,178	4,155	3,868	147	214	159	3.4	4.9	3.9
Swift	4,941	4,763	4,628	316	403	284	6.0	7.8	5.8
Yellow Med.	5,924	5,706	5,453	267	354	286	4.3	5.8	5.0
REGION 8	**64,004**	**62,716**	**58,490**	**2,453**	**3,176**	**2,817**	**3.7**	**4.8**	**4.6**
Cottonwood	6,364	6,181	5,957	313	376	234	4.7	5.7	3.8
Jackson	6,046	5,900	5,257	309	357	244	4.9	5.7	4.4
Lincoln	3,375	3,267	3,047	146	205	236	4.1	5.9	7.2
Lyon	13,107	12,964	11,877	517	637	641	3.8	4.7	5.1
Murray	4,967	4,773	4,514	223	321	261	4.3	6.3	5.5
Nobles	12,107	12,035	11,132	307	433	375	2.5	3.5	3.3
Pipestone	5,155	4,968	4,938	227	300	291	4.2	5.7	5.6
Redwood	7,814	7,698	7,219	284	369	397	3.5	4.6	5.2
Rock	5,069	4,930	4,549	127	178	138	2.4	3.5	2.9
REGION 9	**112,680**	**111,733**	**104,989**	**5,451**	**6,461**	**5,438**	**4.6**	**5.5**	**4.9**
Blue Earth	28,842	29,057	27,437	989	1,187	937	3.3	3.9	3.3
Brown	14,470	14,247	13,022	646	841	729	4.3	5.6	5.3
Faribault	7,530	7,513	7,033	525	644	528	6.5	7.9	7.0
LeSueur	10,479	10,315	9,979	935	1,086	896	8.2	9.5	8.2
Martin	12,245	11,527	11,122	712	761	764	5.5	6.2	6.4
Nicollet	15,745	15,861	14,977	500	608	528	3.1	3.7	3.4
Sibley	6,853	6,903	6,319	441	547	465	6.0	7.3	6.9
Waseca	10,170	10,087	9,205	419	488	347	4.0	4.6	3.6
Watonwan	6,346	6,223	5,895	284	299	244	4.3	4.6	4.0
REGION 10	**227,222**	**226,441**	**214,038**	**10,104**	**12,190**	**11,935**	**4.3**	**5.1**	**5.3**
Dodge	7,896	7,713	7,867	522	671	503	6.2	8.0	6.0
Fillmore	10,349	10,051	9,314	673	837	636	6.1	7.7	6.4
Freeborn	16,073	16,084	14,782	924	1,106	2,512	5.4	6.4	14.5
Goodhue	22,083	22,221	20,544	897	1,120	822	3.9	4.8	3.8
Houston	9,654	9,566	8,955	536	783	475	5.3	7.6	5.0
Mower	18,229	17,956	16,887	604	788	859	3.2	4.2	4.8
Olmsted	64,091	64,619	60,580	1,940	2,039	2,271	2.9	3.1	3.6
Rice	28,094	27,952	26,489	1,405	1,590	1,306	4.8	5.4	4.7
Steele	15,865	15,978	15,331	826	1,047	598	4.9	6.1	3.8
Wabasha	8,752	8,383	8,223	497	614	518	5.4	6.8	5.9
Winona	26,136	25,918	25,066	1,280	1,595	1,435	4.7	5.8	5.4
Rochester Cty	**39,874**	**40,203**	**37,690**	**1,356**	**1,397**	**1,588**	**3.3**	**3.4**	**4.0**

ROCHESTER MSA NONFARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Industry	Employment			% Change From	
	Apr. 1991	Mar. 1991	Apr. 1990	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	**66,601**	**66,481**	**64,884**	**0.2**	**2.6**
Goods Producing	**13,809**	**13,734**	**13,840**	**0.5**	**-0.2**
Construction and Mining	2,044	1,938	1,955	5.5	4.6
Manufacturing	11,765	11,796	11,885	-0.3	-1.0
Durable Goods	9,883	9,907	10,025	-0.2	-1.4
Nondurable Goods	1,882	1,889	1,860	-0.4	1.2
Service Producing	**52,792**	**52,747**	**51,044**	**0.1**	**3.4**
Transp., Comm., & Util.	1,879	1,871	1,853	0.4	1.4
Trade	13,211	13,220	13,117	-0.1	0.7
Wholesale	1,635	1,590	1,640	2.8	-0.3
Retail	11,576	11,630	11,477	-0.5	0.9
Finan., Insur., & Re. Estate	1,808	1,785	1,810	1.3	-0.1
Services	28,870	28,802	27,275	0.2	5.8
Health	19,448	19,431	18,427	0.1	5.5
Other Services	9,422	9,371	8,848	0.5	6.5
Government	7,024	7,069	6,989	-0.6	0.5

Despite Recession, Unemployment Rates Make It Look Like Good Times

Southern Minnesota doesn't seem to know we are in a recession. Unemployment rates have supposedly dropped to boom-time levels. The county with the highest unemployment rate in southern Minnesota was Le Sueur with 8.2%, the same as last April. At the other extreme were Nobles, Rock, and Olmstead Counties with rates of 2.5%, 2.4%, and 2.9%.

To some degree, however, the low rates may by due to a statistical aberration produced by sampling error in the estimating methodology. The unemployment rates for the Rochester MSA thus far during 1991 have been 3.1%, 3.7%, 3.1%, and April's 2.9%. Normally, there's very little fluctuation.

According to the labor force figures, total employment (resident based) has increased over the month and year in every region of southern Minnesota. In the Rochester MSA it rose 5.8% over the year, but payroll data (establishment based) indicates a 2.6% rise--probably closer to the mark. Since March, payroll jobs have increased a scant 0.2% in the MSA. Over the past five years, the average increase was 1.3%.

Among the MSA's industries, there was little significant change in job level over the year. Construction/mining increased 4.6% in contrast to the recession stripping the industry in other parts of the state and nation. The much larger services--both medical and other--increased about six percent. Services accounted for 1,595 of the MSA's additional 1,717 jobs over the year. Over the month, construction/mining's 5.5% increase in jobs was by far the fastest gain.

By Ron Daws

Central and Northwest Minnesota

LABOR FORCE DATA	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	Apr. 1991	Mar. 1991	Apr. 1990	Apr. 1991	Mar. 1991	Apr. 1990	Apr. 1991	Mar. 1991	Apr. 1990
REGION 1	**42,325**	**42,432**	**39,164**	**4,180**	**4,614**	**4,448**	**9.0**	**9.8**	**10.2**
Kittson	2,547	2,535	2,298	215	300	259	7.8	10.6	10.1
Marshall	4,745	4,623	4,325	756	986	852	13.7	17.6	16.5
Norman	3,666	3,544	3,331	312	354	342	7.8	9.1	9.3
Pennington	6,595	6,548	6,118	657	985	872	9.1	13.1	12.5
Polk	14,158	14,580	13,151	1,148	1,171	1,414	7.5	7.4	9.7
Red Lake	1,682	1,578	1,466	263	342	362	13.5	17.8	19.8
Roseau	8,932	9,024	8,475	829	476	347	8.5	5.0	3.9
REGION 2	**30,932**	**30,536**	**29,112**	**2,866**	**3,293**	**3,129**	**8.5**	**9.7**	**9.7**
Beltrami	16,487	16,500	15,431	1,218	1,284	1,251	6.9	7.2	7.5
Clearwater	3,167	3,161	3,015	669	889	759	17.4	22.0	20.1
Hubbard	6,774	6,355	6,573	649	753	749	8.7	10.6	10.2
Lake of Woods	2,027	2,083	1,790	80	81	93	3.8	3.7	4.9
Mahnomen	2,477	2,437	2,303	250	286	277	9.2	10.5	10.7
REGION 4	**100,214**	**97,860**	**93,021**	**6,133**	**7,177**	**6,642**	**5.8**	**6.8**	**6.7**
Becker	13,919	13,298	12,982	1,101	1,304	1,254	7.3	8.9	8.8
Clay	25,507	25,357	24,234	1,352	1,488	1,455	5.0	5.5	5.7
Douglas	15,993	15,765	14,604	857	1,035	945	5.1	6.2	6.1
Grant	3,036	2,946	2,781	226	294	264	6.9	9.1	8.7
Otter Tail	25,842	25,097	23,718	1,771	2,021	1,811	6.4	7.5	7.1
Pope	4,860	4,710	4,476	354	446	400	6.8	8.7	8.2
Stevens	5,407	5,274	4,969	155	236	168	2.8	4.3	3.3
Traverse	2,131	2,027	1,981	113	148	146	5.0	6.8	6.9
Wilkin	3,519	3,386	3,276	204	205	199	5.5	5.7	5.7
REGION 5	**59,836**	**58,544**	**55,838**	**5,455**	**6,592**	**5,703**	**8.4**	**10.1**	**9.3**
Cass	8,474	8,224	7,724	971	1,209	1,058	10.3	12.8	12.0
Crow Wing	21,540	21,114	20,356	1,584	1,830	1,628	6.9	8.0	7.4
Morrison	13,970	13,547	13,181	1,529	1,791	1,557	9.9	11.7	10.6
Todd	10,831	10,747	9,926	929	1,253	1,035	7.9	10.4	9.4
Wadena	5,021	4,912	4,651	442	509	425	8.1	9.4	8.4
REGION 6E	**56,368**	**55,828**	**51,406**	**3,235**	**3,835**	**3,321**	**5.4**	**6.4**	**6.1**
Kandiyohi	21,140	21,036	19,232	922	1,205	959	4.2	5.4	4.7
McLeod	17,103	17,003	15,940	845	957	814	4.7	5.3	4.9
Meeker	9,015	8,900	8,124	978	1,044	837	9.8	10.5	9.3
Renville	9,110	8,889	8,110	490	629	711	5.1	6.6	8.1
REGION 7E	**51,376**	**50,859**	**49,200**	**4,816**	**5,767**	**5,097**	**8.6**	**10.2**	**9.4**
Chisago	14,011	14,019	13,619	1,258	1,527	1,370	8.2	9.8	9.1
Isanti	11,863	11,871	11,531	992	1,116	947	7.7	8.6	7.6
Kanabec	5,223	5,282	5,031	692	838	837	11.7	13.7	14.3
Mille Lacs	10,591	10,228	9,680	818	984	773	7.2	8.8	7.4
Pine	9,688	9,459	9,339	1,056	1,302	1,170	9.8	12.1	11.1
REGION 7W	**130,321**	**129,520**	**123,909**	**8,780**	**10,651**	**9,353**	**8.3**	**7.6**	**7.0**
Benton	15,435	15,306	14,567	1,049	1,217	1,161	6.4	7.4	7.4
Sherburne	18,970	18,810	17,903	1,400	1,692	1,448	6.9	8.3	7.5
Stearns	63,467	62,935	59,898	3,757	4,625	4,164	5.6	6.8	6.5
Wright	32,449	32,469	31,541	2,574	3,117	2,580	7.3	8.8	7.6
St. Cloud MSA	**97,872**	**97,051**	**92,368**	**6,206**	**7,535**	**6,772**	**6.0**	**7.2**	**6.8**

ST. CLOUD MSA NONFARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT Industry	Employment			% Change From	
	Apr. 1991	Mar. 1991	Apr. 1990	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	79,192	77,969	78,591	1.6	0.8
Goods Producing	**17,532**	**16,905**	**17,882**	**3.7**	**-2.0**
Construction and Mining	2,941	2,340	3,436	25.7	-14.4
Manufacturing	14,591	14,565	14,446	0.2	1.0
Durable Goods	8,496	8,444	8,428	0.6	0.8
Nondurable Goods	6,095	6,121	6,018	-0.4	1.3
Service Producing	**61,660**	**61,064**	**60,709**	**1.0**	**1.6**
Transp., Comm., & Util.	3,874	3,899	3,952	-0.6	-2.0
Trade	23,003	22,964	22,518	0.2	2.2
Wholesale	3,608	3,604	3,714	0.1	-2.9
Retail	19,395	19,360	18,804	0.2	3.1
Finan., Insur., & Re. Estate	2,516	2,503	2,414	0.5	4.2
Services	18,515	18,520	17,911	0.0	3.4
Health	6,264	6,216	5,606	0.8	11.7
Other Services	12,251	12,304	12,305	-0.4	-0.4
Government	13,752	13,178	13,914	4.4	-1.2

Unemployment Rates Subside Over-the-Year While Employment Continues to Increase

Employment rose over the year in every region while unemployment rates dropped. The drop in unemployment, however, may be a statistical aberration produced by sampling error in the labor force estimating methodology.

In the St. Cloud MSA the unemployment rate dropped from 7.2% in March and 6.8% last April, to 6.0% this April. By way of comparison, the MSA's April rate was 6.2% in 1989 and 4.3% in 1988. The degree of drop over the month this year was about average, and if accurate, would indicate that the current recession has not been able to secure much of a foot hold in central and northwest Minnesota.

Employer based job figures indicate that the strong employment gains suggested by the labor force figures may also be overstated. While total employment (resident based) in the MSA is reported as increasing 6.0% over the year, payroll jobs (establishment based) rose 0.8%. The corresponding payroll job increase for 1989-90 was 1.0%; for 1988-89 it was 9.9%, and for 1987-88 it was 3.3%.

The main industrial movers and shakers in the MSA were construction/mining which lost 14.4% of its jobs over the year despite adding 25.7% of them over the month, and health services which created 11.7% more jobs over the year.

Other than the 4.4% more education jobs as result of the school spring break ending, there weren't any other significant job changes in the MSA.

By Ron Daws

Northeast Minnesota

Unemployment Down Over the Year

Despite a large unemployment jump in Koochiching County over the year, Region 3's rate dropped from 8.3% last April to 7.5% this April. This drop may not be as great as it seems. Other evidence suggests that it is an exaggeration produced by a statistical aberration. The rise in Koochiching County is probably real--due to laid-off construction workers following completion of the new Boise Cascade plant.

Employment in Region 3, although generally down slightly over the month is up significantly over the year in Region 3 according to the labor force figures. In Duluth, for example, total employment (resident based) rose 1,422 or 3.8% according to the official figures. Employer based job data, however, suggests that Duluth's over-the-year job gain is closer to one-half percent, and that despite the over-the-month 1.2% employment loss suggested by the labor force data, the job level remained essentially unchanged between March and April.

Few industries in Duluth added or lost significant numbers of jobs over the year. Construction/mining had 7.0% (110) fewer jobs than last April, and wholesale trade had 7.2% (125) more. Health services added the most workers, 322 (up 5.5%). Retail trade's 261fewer workers would not be caused by the gradual move by retailers to the suburban malls as downtown Duluth becomes increasingly office oriented, since most of the malls are within city limits. It probably reflects the general softning of consumer spending.

Looking back over several months' employment and unemployment data suggests that although Region 3 is feeling the effects of the recession, the job market and economy is merely in a holding pattern and will come up to speed when the national economy improves. *By Ron Daws*

LABOR FORCE DATA									
	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	Apr. 1991	Mar. 1991	Apr. 1990	Apr. 1991	Mar. 1991	Apr. 1990	Apr. 1991	Mar. 1991	Apr. 1990
REGION 3	138,371	139,392	133,854	11,207	11,854	12,190	7.5	7.8	8.3
Aitkin	5,129	5,216	4,767	635	691	731	11.0	11.7	13.3
Carlton	12,365	12,127	11,783	1,095	1,218	1,188	8.1	9.1	9.2
Cook	2,408	2,551	2,239	200	199	311	7.7	7.2	12.2
Itasca	16,870	16,835	15,879	1,751	1,706	2,165	9.4	9.2	12.0
Koochiching	8,630	8,624	9,749	918	891	605	9.6	9.4	5.8
Lake	4,236	4,238	3,978	460	575	420	9.8	11.9	9.5
St. Louis	88,733	89,801	85,459	6,148	6,574	6,770	6.5	6.8	7.3
City of Duluth	38,523	38,986	37,101	2,200	2,392	2,476	5.4	5.8	6.3
Balance St. Louis	50,210	50,815	48,358	3,948	4,182	4,294	7.3	7.6	8.2

DULUTH & DULUTH-SUPERIOR MSA NONFARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT										
Industry	DULUTH					DULUTH SUPERIOR				
	Employment			% Change From		Employment			% Change From	
	Apr. 1991	Mar. 1991	Apr. 1990	Month Ago	Year Ago	Apr. 1991	Mar. 1991	Apr. 1990	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	**49,334**	**49,223**	**49,157**	**0.2**	**0.4**	**97,491**	**97,420**	**96,541**	**0.1**	**1.0**
Goods Producing	**5,586**	**5,371**	**5,644**	**4.0**	**-1.0**	**17,204**	**16,755**	**16,710**	**2.7**	**3.0**
Mining	Small combined with construction					5,367	5,318	5,263	0.9	2.0
Construction	1,455	1,373	1,565	6.0	-7.0	2,931	2,876	3,136	1.9	-6.5
Manufacturing	4,131	3,998	4,079	3.3	1.3	8,906	8,561	8,311	4.0	7.2
Durable Goods	1,602	1,574	1,563	1.8	2.5	4,642	4,585	4,350	1.2	6.7
Nondurable Goods	2,529	2,424	2,516	4.3	0.5	4,264	3,976	3,961	7.2	7.6
Service Producing	**43,748**	**43,852**	**43,513**	**-0.2**	**0.5**	**80,287**	**80,665**	**79,831**	**-0.5**	**0.6**
Transp., Comm., & Util.	2,945	2,848	2,982	3.4	-1.2	5,777	5,806	5,689	-0.5	1.5
Trade	11,599	11,619	11,735	-0.2	-1.2	23,680	23,743	24,064	-0.3	-1.6
Wholesale	1,869	1,877	1,744	-0.4	7.2	3,908	3,836	3,829	1.9	2.1
Retail	9,730	9,742	9,991	-0.1	-2.6	19,772	19,907	20,235	-0.7	-2.3
Finan., Insur., & Re. Estate	1,978	1,951	1,946	1.4	1.6	3,287	3,267	3,171	0.6	3.7
Services	14,976	15,164	14,567	-1.2	2.8	24,960	25,212	24,175	-1.0	3.2
Health	6,184	6,357	5,862	-2.7	5.5	10,013	10,239	9,497	-2.2	5.4
Other Services	8,792	8,807	8,705	-0.2	1.0	14,947	14,973	14,678	-0.2	1.8
Government	12,250	12,270	12,283	-0.2	-0.3	22,583	22,637	22,732	-0.2	-0.7

Research Summaries

The Bureau of Labor Statistics expects a decline of 440,000 in the number of youths between 16 and 24 years old seeking temporary and full-time work this summer compared with 1990.

This over-the-year decline in the youth labor force results from the combination of a decline in both the 16- to 24-year-old population and their rate of labor force participation. Their numbers have been falling since 1980 and about 300,000 fewer are expected this July than last. The proportion of youth in the labor force is expected to be below last July's 75.2%, which itself was down from the record high 77.5% reached in July 1989.

BLS also reported that unemployment rates in March were higher than a year earlier in 48 states and D.C. Employment on nonfarm payrolls was lower than a year earlier in 19 states and D.C.

The all-industries median first-year wage increase negotiated in the first 20 weeks of 1991 is 3.9%, compared with 4% in the corresponding period a year ago, according to the Bureau of National Affairs biweekly survey.

Younger women are nearly as segregated into traditional female jobs as middle-aged and older women, and the gap between the wages paid young women and young men is likely to grow as they age, according to a new study by the Older Women's League. Workforce segregation is "the prime culprit" for the earnings gap between men and women, the report says.

By the year 2000, 85% of all jobs will require a high school education, yet the graduation rate stands at about 72%, according to the Society for Human Resource Management.

Shifts in the age-gender composition of the labor force, (particularly for women, 16-19 year olds, and those over 65 years), changes in unemployment, and a widening part-time/full-time wage gap can explain only a small part of the continuing increase in part-time jobs, according to an article in the March *Monthly Labor Review* by Chris Tilly, assistant professor at the University of Lowell (Mass.) Tilly argues that the shift to services and the increasing use of "low-wage, low-skill, high-turnover" workers in all industries explains much better the shift to part-time work.

Contrary to some perceptions, a Commonwealth Fund study concluded that older workers can be retrained, have lower absenteeism rates, and are often better salespeople than younger workers. Earlier Fund studies estimate that six million unemployed Americans over the age of 55 are ready and able towork. They would join 13.5 million others over 55 who are already in the work force. "Hiring older people makes good business sense," the study concludes.

Productivity is no longer enough to sustain the competitive edge of the United States, according to a report by the American Society for Training and Development for the Employment and Training Administration. Workers will be required to have more general knowledge, more abstract reasoning capability, more social skill, and more "reserve skills" that will permit them to "cope with change, tailor service, handle exceptions, and capture new learning on the job."

Those workers who "pay attention to education, training, and work experience can increase their control over their working lives". Leaders are born, but many companies believe they can be nurtured too. ASTA estimates that 60% of the nation's largest companies now offer leadership training●

By Bruce Steuernagel

Getting a Handle on the Cost of Living

What's the cost of living? The answer to this question affects everyone because whatever your paycheck is, the other side of the coin--prices and how they change--determines how far your money will go.

Cost of living measures fall into basically two camps. One measures change in prices over time, the other compares living expenses in different cities at a particular time. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is most commonly used to measure cost of living over time, and other indexes are used to compare living costs among areas. People who ask us for CPI data so they can compare what it costs to live in different cities are often surprised to learn that the CPI cannot answer that question. It could be, for example, that although prices are rising twice as fast in City A as in City B, it costs less to live in City A.

We in the Research and Statistics Office often are put to the test answering all manner of question pertaining to price changes, living costs and budgets. The following are some of the more frequently asked questions and the answers to them.

Q. I am negotiating a wage settlement. How much has the cost of living gone up in the past year?

A. To answer this we usethe Consumer Price Index, or CPI. The CPI is a reflection of consumer spending habits. As such, it measures prices of a fixed market basket of goods and services commonly purchased by American consumers. The change in the costs of these goods and services is often referred to as the cost of living, but technically, the CPI measures change in consumer prices.

There are two basic CPI indexes. The older index, CPI-W, represents purchases made by urban wage earners and clerical workers. Introduced over 75 years ago, the CPI-W was begun for use in wage negotiations, and is representative of the buying habits of about one-third of the U.S. population. The need for a broader index prompted the development of the second index. This all-urban CPI-U was introduced in 1978, and reflects the buying habits of 81% of the U.S. population.

Both measures are fairly current, released between the 15th and 25th of the following month. They are not revised afterwards, so you don't have to call back if you only want data for a particular month. In the year ending April 1991, the CPI-U rose 4.9% and the CPI-W rose 4.7%. Page 5 of the quarterly Review provides a history of these annual changes.

Q. Which index is best?

A. Both indexes are accurate for the usage intended. Most frequently quoted in news stories is the CPI-U because it covers a larger population. Nevertheless, we still receive requests for the CPI-W. We have both on hand.

If you have not been using either index in the past we recommend using the CPI-U. If you don't know which index you have been using, we probably can match your index numbers to one of the series.

Q. Can I get the CPI for my area instead of using a national figure?

A. Maybe. CPIs are available for 28 metropolitan areas including Minneapolis-St.Paul. If you live there, you can use that figure. But you may not want to for two reasons. First, not all local CPIs are released monthly. The one for the Minneapolis St. Paul area is estimated only twice per year, which makes assessing changes for a given month difficult. Secondly, local CPIs rely on a small sample which renders them more volatile than the nation's. Figure 1 shows this. There are no CPIs for areas smaller than major metro areas which is another reason to stick with the national CPI.

Figure 1

U.S. and Mpls-St. Paul CPI Changes Differ Most of the Time

	% Change From Previous Year in CPI-U		Change in Inflation From Previous Year		Major Difference?
Year	M-St. P	U.S.	M-St. P	U.S.	
1979	11.3	11.3			
1980	11.4	13.5	0.1	2.2	Yes
1981	12.3	10.3	0.9	-3.2	Yes
1982	9.9	6.2	-2.4	-4.1	Yes
1983	2.2	3.2	-7.7	-3.0	Yes
1984	3.6	4.3	1.4	1.1	No
1985	3.8	3.6	0.2	-0.7	Yes
1986	1.3	1.9	-2.5	-1.7	No
1987	3.0	3.6	1.7	1.7	No
1988	5.0	4.1	2.0	0.5	Yes
1989	4.1	4.8	-0.9	0.7	Yes
1990	4.1	5.4	0.0	0.6	Yes

Q. How can I calculate the percent change in the CPI?

A. A simple two step process does it. The percent change between two periods, say March 1989 and March 1991, is derived by first dividing the current index by the previous index, subtracting 1.0 from from the answer, and then moving the decimal point two digits to the left. For example:

Step 1. March 1991 index 135.0 divided by March 1989 index 122.3 = 1.104

Step 2. Subtract 1.0 from the left of the decimal, and move the decimal two digits to the left or, 1.104 = 10.4%.

It doesn't matter whether you use the 1967 base equaling 100, or the 1982-84 base equaling 100 as long as you use the same reference period throughout. The conversion factors are:

1967 U.S. index = 1982-84 index x 2.995
1982-84 U.S.index = 1967 index x 0.334
1967 M-StP index = 1982-84 index x 3.142
1982-84 M-StP index = 1967 index x 0.318

(Example: U.S. All Items 1982-84 index for March 1991 = 135.0. 135.0 x 2.995 = 404.3, the 1967 index).

Q. Besides computing price increases, what else is the CPI used for?

A. There are many applications for the consumer price index. Representatives of business and labor may use changes in the CPI to negotiate wage adjustments. Lessees and leasers may likewise use the CPI to adjust rents periodically. Many government transfer payments, such as Social Security and military pensions, are often tied directly to CPI increases. Other social costs such as child-support and alimony payments are often adjusted by the CPI. CPIs are also used as a deflator of earnings to measure real earnings over time. The sidebar on the next page shows how to convert the purchasing power of yesterday's dollars into today's, or today's into yesterday's.

Q. If the CPI measures price changes for a market basket of goods and services, what items are measured, and is there much difference in the price changes of these items?

A. The market basket has 382 items which represent all goods and services purchased for day to day living by urban consumers: food, housing apparel, transportation, health care, entertainment, and all other. Buying habits are periodically surveyed to keep the market basket composition and index weights up to date. This is done through the Consumer Expenditure Survey, a diary of consumer expenditures for small frequently purchased items, and an interview survey for items people recall easily.

Expenditure Survey data is one way to develop a typical budget for different types of consumer unit characteristics (e.g. income level, age of homeowner or renter, number of persons in unit, region, occupation). Expenditure data for 1989 is published in a news release from the BLS.

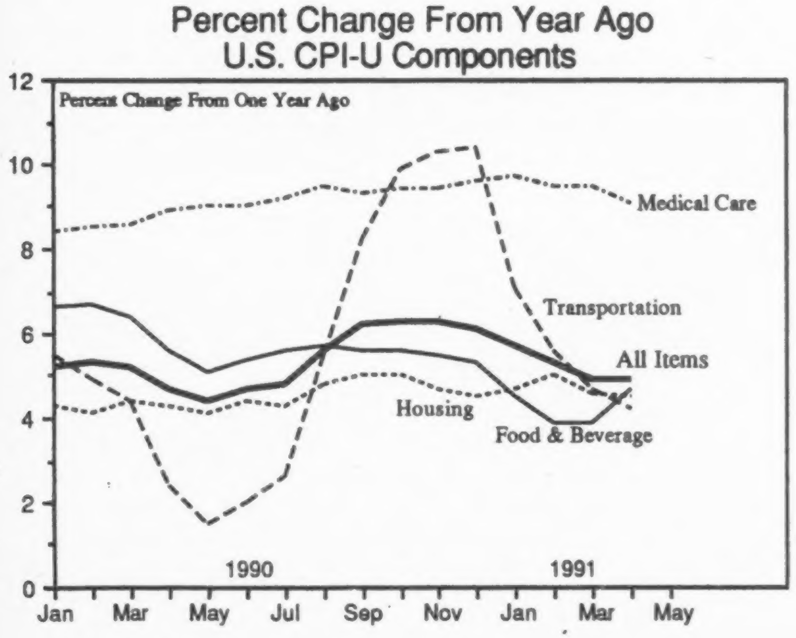
Each month, BLS personnel price component items from thousands of stores. Figure 2 shows how prices have varied for four major components during the past year. Medical care consistently grew fastest, while transportation (including gasoline), was most volatile. The overall index flucuates less than these two components, however, because medical care expenditures account for only about 5% of expenditures, and gasoline about 3.5%. Housing accounts for the highest share of expenditures.

Sports fans carp about the salaries some of today's pro athletes can command. Baseball's Kirby Puckett, for example, makes a nifty three million a year. Babe Ruth, probably the greatest pitcher-hitter combination ever and one of the all-time greats, never earned more than the $80,000 he received in 1930.

But times were different then. A nickel bought a beer, and a new car might cost $800 to $900. If Babe's salary was translated into today's purchasing power, how would it compare to Puckett's?

With 1967 = 100, the CPI in 1930 was 50.0. In 1990 it was 384.4. Dividing 50 into 384.4 tells us that a 1930 dollar bought $7.69 worth of today's goods and services. That means Babe's $80,000 would be worth $615,040 or slightly more than one-fifth what Puckett makes.

Figure 2

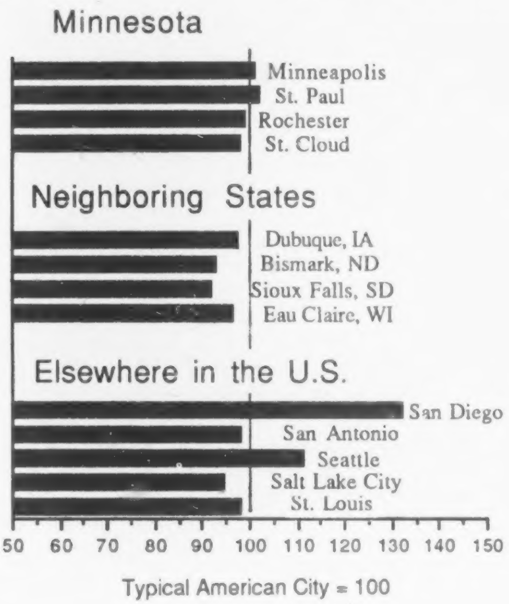


Q. What about using CPIs to identify areas with the lowest cost of living?

A. Local CPIs do not reflect differences in the level of living costs between urban areas. A local CPI measures the rate of change in the costs of goods and services in that local area. An example shows how. If in area A housing costs were $100,000 and in area B, $200,000 in the base year, the housing index for each area would be set at 100. If, over time, housing costs in both areas increase $25,000,

Figure 3

Variation in Cost of Living Around the U.S.



area A's index would rise to 125 (a 25% increase in the housing component), while area B's index would rise to 112.5 (a 12.5% increase). Concluding that housing costs are higher in area A than in area B is wrong. The correct conclusion is that while housing costs are increasing faster in area A, average costs are still less in area B. That same reasoning extends to general living costs.

Q. I'm looking for a job in other cities. How then can I compare living costs among areas?

A. No government agency comprehensively compares living cost levels among areas. The American Chamber of Commerce Researchers Association (ACCRA) produces the Inter-City Cost of Living Index. It measures prices of consumer goods and services in participating cities. Up to 293 areas are represented, and the information is updated quarterly.

The average of the areas surveyed is indexed at 100 to provide a standard to compare to. The ACCRA index is a point in time measure, and therefore, doesn't capture inflation. Because the number of items priced is rather limited (taxes, for example, are excluded), differences of three or fewer whole index points between cities are not considered significant. As with the CPI, the All-Items index is available for major components of living costs--food, housing, utilities, transportation, health care and miscellaneous items. That enables you to tell which items are relative bargains and which are budget busters. It is available at some librarys such as the Hill Reference Library (612) 227-9531.

Q. I might have more questions in the future? Who do I call?

A. ***BLS CPI Hotline***: (612) 290-3996 24-hour recorded message with current U.S. and Minneapolis-St. Paul CPI-U and CPI-W, 1982-84 and 1967 base, percent change from month and year ago.

BLS CPI Detail: (202) 523-1239 24-hour recorded message with current U.S. data and narratives on CPI-all items and six component categories. This telephone number also has a menu of other BLS data such as unemployment rate and Employment Cost Index.

BLS News : monthly news release from BLS Regional Office in Chicago with U.S. City average CPI-U, 1982-84 base, for all items and detailed components. Also contains data for selected north central region metropolitan areas. Call (312) 353-1880 to get on mailing list.

Monthly Labor Review : This monthly publication of the BLS contains a section called Current Labor Statistics that includes monthly and annual average CPI-U and CPI-W for all items, and detailed components for the U.S., Regions and Areas and selected metropolitan areas. Available at libraries or annual subscription of $24 through Superintendent of Documents, GPO, Washington D.C. 20402.

Hopefully, it will no longer be hard for you to get accurate information on living costs. Your decision will be to choose items that are a best buy, and perhaps to chose a place where your hard earned dollars will go furthest●

By Bruce Steuernagel, Don Hilber and Ron Daws

Occupational Outlook

Policing Our Projections

New job figures for 1989 reveal that 90% of the projected job gain between 1986 and 1993 has already occurred. It could mean we under-projected, or, that job growth is slowing.

We in the Research and Statistics Office periodically project future employment. In ***Minnesota Employment Outlook to 1993***, using a 1986 base, we published employment projections to 1993 for 424 occupations and 63 key industries. Now, we are in the process of projecting out to 1996 from newly calibrated 1989 data. Using the 1989 employment estimates, we can get a pretty good fix on how well our 1986 to 1993 predictions are faring. Rather than make detailed comparisons (because sampling differences and coding changes make this difficult), we concentrate on the major groupings, comparing the changes that have already taken place against the 1986-1993 outlook, and look at whether the relative growth among groups was similar to what was forecasted.

The basic number in our estimating model is the figure for total employment in Minnesota (See Figures 1, 2, or 3). If we insert the new 1989 estimate of total employment into the 1986 to 1993

Figure 1: MINNESOTA INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS, 1986-1993, WITH 1989 EMPLOYMENT

Industry Group	1986 Estimated Employment	1989 Estimated Employment	1993 Projected Employment	% of '86-'93 Change Reached by 1989	1986-1989 % Change
TOTAL, ALL INDUSTRIES	2,127,080	2,342,160	2,369,180	89%	10%
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing	101,890	107,170	89,460	*	5
Mining	7,320	7,650	6,940	*	5
Construction	74,890	79,070	83,080	51	6
Manufacturing	368,830	398,900	399,910	97	8
Transportation, Communication, and Utilities	98,080	105,030	103,900	119	7
Trade	470,740	516,650	534,650	72	10
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	116,350	123,300	131,580	46	6
Services	592,630	682,210	694,820	88	15
Government	139,450	148,850	151,550	78	7
Nonagric. Self-Employed and Unpaid Family Workers	156,910	173,330	173,290	100	10

*Increased, instead of decreased as projected.

Figure 2: MINNESOTA 1986-1993 PROJECTIONS BY OCCUPATIONAL GROUP, WITH 1989 EMPLOYMENT

Occupational Category	1986 Estimated Employment	1989 Estimated Employment	1993 Projected Employment	% of '86-'93 Change Reached by 1989	1986-1989 % Change
TOTAL, ALL OCCUPATIONS	2,127,080	2,342,160	2,369,180	89%	10%
Managerial and Administrative	142,920	168,700	163,840	123	18
Professional, Paraprofessional, and Technical	402,230	440,680	468,650	58	10
Sales and Related	246,120	274,160	284,900	72	11
Clerical and Administrative Support	365,860	404,190	394,420	134	10
Service	341,050	374,280	391,670	66	10
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing	102,990	108,410	91,560	*	5
Precision Production and Repair	220,590	238,430	242,800	80	8
Operator, Fabricator, and Laborer	305,310	333,320	331,330	108	9

*Increased, instead of decreased as projected.

projection, we find that 89 percent of the growth has already occurred even though 1989 is only three years into the 7-year projection. But, because of the cyclical nature of the economy and a probable slowdown in labor force growth, the early 1990s probably won't see the big increase in employment the late 1980s did. If that scenario comes true, then most of the growth should have taken place by 1989.

We can view projections in three ways: by industry, by occupation, and by region. Looking at the industry side (see Figure 1), several transportation and manufacturing industries, especially nondurables, have 1989 estimated employment skewed to the high side, meaning that overall growth here was more than originally expected. One significant exception is office and computing machine employment which was expected to grow when, in fact, it declined over the first three of the seven years. Looking at finance/insurance/ real estate and construction, we see that their employments have grown relatively slower than expected. For the two major industry groups agriculture/ forestry/fishing and mining, we projected a decline in employment between 1986 and 1993, but between 1986 and 1989 jobs actually increased. Nevertheless, employment in all the remaining industry groups grew faster than these last two, as expected. We predicted the services industry would grow fastest and add the most jobs, and between 1986 and 1989 it did. Much like total employment, 88 percent of the 1986-1993 service job growth had taken

(Continued on back cover)

Figure 3: MINNESOTA REGIONAL 1986-1993 PROJECTIONS, WITH 1989 EMPLOYMENT

Region	1986 Estimated Employment	1989 Estimated Employment	1993 Projected Employment	% of '86-'93 Change Reached by 1989	1986-1989 % Change
Northeast	120,280	130,770	126,400	171%	9%
Northwest	177,350	194,330	187,360	170	10
Central	180,680	204,010	204,720	97	13
Southwest	171,810	182,560	176,790	216	6
Southeast	189,220	210,760	203,350	152	11
Twin Cities	1,287,740	1,419,730	1,470,580	72	10
Total State	2,127,080	2,342,160	2,369,180	89	10

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Minnesota
Labor
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Review

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(Continued from page 18)

place by 1989.

Let's look now at employment by occupation (See Figure 2). Between 1986 and 1989, two groups grew significantly faster than expected, already surpassing their 1993 projected values in 1989. These are managerial/administrative and clerical/ administrative support occupations. One reason for the underestimates is we had expected more positions to be cut as firms scrambled to increase productivity. Of all the groups, managerial/ administrative grew by far the fastest. Growth rates among the other groups converged. Professional/paraprofessional/technical occupations, which was projected to grow fastest, was the furthest from reaching its 1993 projection, though it did (by close margin) add the most new jobs.

We also made a 1993 employment assessment for six regions in Minnesota (See Figure 3). As shown, employment in the Twin Cities is well below the projection, while Greater Minnesota, especially in regions forecasted to grow slowest, has grown faster than expected. Yet, among the outstate regions, the ranking by percentage growth between 1986 and 1989 is identical to the ranking projected between 1986 and 1993.

Looking at these 1986 to 1989 changes, it appears that our employment outlook to 1993 was probably better in forecasting relative growth than it was absolute growth. In other areas mentioned above, we simply missed the mark. It is too soon to make definite judgments, as we have only seen three of the seven years, but we do know that projections get outdated--unforeseen events can make employment grow much differently than originally anticipated. Our aim in projecting employment is to indicate as best we can which directions various occupations or industries are going, and how they will grow or decline relative to each other. Right now we're working on an updated ***Minnesota Employment Outlook to 1996***. It will be available from the Research and Statistics Office late this summer or in early fall, with regional outlook publications to follow. *By Sue Borgfelt and Tom Nash*

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Minnesota Labor Market Review

July 1991

Minnesota

Number of Jobs and Unemployment Rate Both Rise

Minnesota's labor markets displayed mixed signals in May. The number of nonfarm payroll jobs increased sharply, but so did the unemployment rate. Such seemingly contradictory evidence is actually typical for the early stages of an economic recovery. Firms begin to call back workers, but an even faster resurgence in people looking for previously scarce jobs boosts the ranks of the unemployed.

The number of jobs in Minnesota, after seasonal adjustment, went up for the second straight month. Moreover, it was the largest increase since January 1990, and the rise was broad -- with six of the seven major industry sectors contributing. This strongly suggests that the recession in Minnesota is over, but one more monthly increase is probably needed for confirmation. For example, employment increased in both August and September of 1981, during the middle of a economic downturn, but dropped afterwards and didn't reach bottom until over a year later.

The May employment surge mirrors the U.S. pattern; that month saw the first gain in jobs in almost a year. In Minnesota, however, this downturn has been much more benign than in other parts of the nation. Already, there are more jobs in Minnesota than last year this time, while the U.S. job count remains 1.4% lower. The nation experienced 10 straight months of decline while the state had only four months of losses.

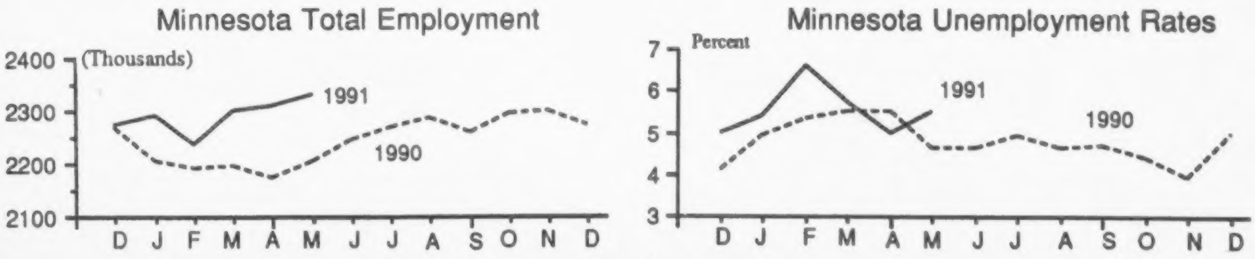
Despite the shallow recession and recent job surge, the unemployment rate is higher than a year ago -- as it has been for ten of the last 12 months. May's rise to 5.5% from April's 5.0% can be attributed in part to sampling methodology that causes erratic swings in the series. Unemployment may still be increasing after monthly and seasonal fluctuations are accounted for, because the latest 12-month average is half a percentage point higher than the 12-month period ending in May 1990. Jobs may be on the rise, but the number of people who want them grows faster. Since the start of the year, state labor force growth has remained above three percent.

By Don Hilber

Current Labor Force Estimates

	Minnesota (In Thousands)			% Change From		United States (In Thousands)			% Change From	
	May 91	Apr 91	May 90	Apr 91	May 90	May 91	Apr 91	May 90	Apr 91	May 90
Labor Force	2467.3	2429.8	2376.7	1.5	3.8	124,857	124,727	124,640	0.1	0.2
Employment	2330.9	2307.2	2266.8	1.0	2.8	116,624	116,678	118,277	0.0	-1.4
Unemployment	136.4	122.6	110.0	11.2	24.0	8,203	8,049	6,363	2.3	29.4
Actual Unemp. Rate	5.5	5.0	4.6	-	-	6.6	6.5	5.1	-	-
Seasonally Adj. Rate	-	-	-	-	-	6.9	6.6	5.3	-	-

Minnesota Employment and Unemployment Rates - 1990 and 1991



Minnesota Total Employment

Minnesota Unemployment Rates

Minnesota Nonfarm Wage & Salary Jobs, Hours & Earnings

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT 1/ (thousands)			PERCENT CHANGE FROM		PRODUCTION WORKERS & HOURS & EARNINGS 2/					
						Average Weekly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings	
	May 1991	Apr. 1991	May 1990	Apr. 1991	May 1990	May 1991	May 1990	May 1991	May 1990	May 1991	May 1990
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	2,148.4	2,112.8	2,141.8	1.7	0.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goods Producing	474.3	461.6	485.6	2.8	-2.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mining	8.6	8.2	8.2	4.9	4.3	660.70	608.37	43.9	43.3	15.05	14.05
Metal Mining	6.4	6.5	6.1	-1.0	4.9	705.43	634.61	44.2	43.2	15.96	14.69
Construction	76.3	67.7	81.5	12.7	-6.5	645.96	632.27	38.2	38.6	16.91	16.38
Manufacturing	389.5	385.7	395.9	1.0	-1.6	457.65	449.27	39.9	39.9	11.47	11.26
Durable Goods	222.1	218.8	230.5	1.5	-3.6	468.69	457.48	40.3	40.2	11.63	11.38
Lumber and Furniture	22.4	21.9	22.4	2.0	-0.2	522.00	487.08	40.0	36.9	13.05	13.20
Stone, Clay and Glass	8.4	7.8	9.0	7.9	-6.3	484.21	482.69	41.0	41.9	11.81	11.52
Primary Metals	6.2	6.1	6.4	1.8	-3.6	465.16	467.58	40.1	41.6	11.60	11.24
Fabricated Metals	33.5	33.5	34.6	0.0	-3.1	488.78	484.46	40.8	42.2	11.98	11.48
Industrial Machinery	73.6	73.4	77.3	0.2	-4.8	495.29	467.60	40.3	40.0	12.29	11.69
Office and Computing	32.4	32.1	34.3	0.9	-5.6	521.42	480.48	42.6	41.6	12.24	11.55
Electronic Equipment	29.1	29.0	30.0	0.5	-2.9	392.23	394.54	40.9	40.3	9.59	9.79
Transportation Equipment	10.5	8.7	11.5	20.7	-8.9	460.03	509.88	38.4	42.0	11.98	12.14
Instruments and Related	32.6	32.5	32.9	0.1	-0.9	439.83	424.76	40.5	40.3	10.86	10.54
Misc. Manufacturing	5.8	5.9	6.3	-1.3	-8.4	371.95	413.00	36.9	38.1	10.08	10.84
Nondurable Goods	167.4	166.9	165.4	0.3	1.2	445.56	438.06	39.5	39.5	11.28	11.09
Food & Beverage Products	48.1	47.6	46.2	1.2	4.2	403.57	391.64	39.8	39.6	10.14	9.89
Textiles & Apparel	4.6	4.6	4.9	0.9	-5.0	278.60	286.28	35.0	34.0	7.96	8.42
Paper Products	34.4	34.4	33.9	0.1	1.4	574.10	556.01	42.4	41.9	13.54	13.27
Printing and Publishing	52.2	52.5	51.6	-0.5	1.3	411.68	430.54	36.4	37.9	11.31	11.36
Chemicals and Petroleum	11.3	11.3	11.9	-0.5	-5.3	588.82	526.73	42.3	40.8	13.92	12.91
Rubber, Plastic & Leather	16.7	16.5	16.9	1.1	-1.4	422.66	401.30	41.6	40.7	10.16	9.86
Service Producing	1,674.0	1,651.3	1,656.2	1.4	1.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transp., Comm., & Util.	109.3	107.8	109.5	1.3	-0.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	74.6	73.4	74.8	1.7	-0.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trucking & Warehousing	26.8	26.2	27.3	2.2	-1.8	401.86	411.94	32.2	33.6	12.48	12.26
Communication & Utilities	34.6	34.4	34.7	0.7	-0.1	639.04	595.21	38.8	38.5	16.47	15.46
Trade	516.1	506.7	518.3	1.9	-0.4	245.95	234.61	28.8	29.0	8.54	8.09
Wholesale	126.3	124.9	126.4	1.1	-0.1	418.13	401.84	37.2	36.9	11.24	10.89
Retail	389.9	381.8	391.8	2.1	-0.5	195.15	185.83	26.3	26.7	7.42	6.96
Building Materials	18.6	17.7	18.9	5.1	-1.6	312.57	347.42	35.6	37.6	8.78	9.24
General Merchandise	52.7	52.9	55.8	-0.2	-5.5	193.29	177.46	25.3	25.1	7.64	7.07
Food Stores	55.5	54.2	54.1	2.4	2.6	222.22	195.74	27.1	27.3	8.20	7.17
Automotive	43.5	43.1	43.6	0.9	-0.2	300.96	293.22	34.2	34.7	8.80	8.45
Apparel	19.5	19.2	19.8	1.2	-1.9	117.00	130.20	19.5	21.7	6.00	6.00
Home Furnishings	14.8	14.8	15.3	0.5	-2.7	291.09	275.18	31.3	31.2	9.30	8.82
Eating and Drinking	134.5	129.9	134.6	3.5	-0.1	128.26	117.45	22.7	22.5	5.65	5.22
Fin., Insur., Real Estate	125.7	125.0	123.8	0.5	1.6						
Finance	57.2	56.9	56.2	0.6	1.7						
Insurance	47.0	47.1	46.3	-0.1	1.6						
Real Estate	21.4	21.0	21.2	1.9	1.1						
Services	570.3	563.4	553.5	1.2	3.0						
Personal Services	25.0	25.8	24.8	-3.1	0.7						
Business Services	94.2	92.5	93.0	1.8	1.2						
Repair Services	23.4	23.5	23.1	-0.1	1.3						
Health Services	171.5	171.0	165.5	0.3	3.6						
Nursing Homes	44.0	43.9	43.5	0.3	1.0						
Hospitals	57.2	57.3	55.5	-0.2	2.9						
Legal Services	16.0	16.0	15.7	0.4	2.3						
Private Education	35.4	35.8	35.0	-1.2	1.0						
Government	352.7	348.3	351.2	1.3	0.4						
Federal	33.9	33.9	38.2	0.1	-11.3						
State	87.9	87.6	87.4	0.4	0.6						
Education	50.3	50.1	49.6	0.3	1.5						
Local	230.9	226.8	225.5	1.8	2.4						
Education	125.3	123.4	122.7	1.5	2.1						

Note: Not all industry sub-groups are shown for every major industry category.

1/ Totals may not add because of rounding.

2/ Average earnings data are on a "gross" basis and are derived from reports of payroll for full-time and part-time production or non-supervisory workers. The payroll is reported before deductions of any kind. Bonuses, retroactive pay, tips, payment in kind, and "fringe benefits" are excluded.

Minneapolis-St. Paul MSA

Despite Increase in Jobless Rate, Signs of Recovery Evident

The unemployment rate for the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area rose to 5.1% in May, an increase of 0.6 of a percentage point from the April rate of 4.5%. The area's jobless rate has fluctuated erratically during 1991, but remains below statewide and national rates of 5.5 and 6.6% respectively.

Over the past 10 years, the number of employed workers has increased by an average of 0.7% between April and May. This year the number of employed remained unchanged. The underlying trend is apparent despite the wild fluctuations in the unemployment rate, is that although employment growth in the Twin Cities is stronger than nationally, it is too sluggish to handle the number of jobseekers in the local area. Through the first five months of 1991, the number of employed metro area residents is running about 1.4% ahead of a year ago.

Nationally, employment has dropped by an average of 1.0% during the same period. The number of unemployed is running about 16% higher than a year ago locally, compared to nearly 26% for the nation.

While the labor force series does not show any definite trend towards improvement, the May survey of metro area firms indicates that labor market conditions are improving. On a seasonally adjusted basis, total nonfarm jobs rose briskly for the second consecutive month.

That both goods-producing and service-producing industries contributed to the overall gain was an additionally encouraging.

Goods-producing employment rose for the first time in 14 months owing to both construction and manufacturing. The increase in construction jobs was modest, but May was a very rainy month which probably curtailed activity somewhat. Despite recent signs of recovery, the construction industry experienced a 7.5% job decline, the greatest relative loss in any major industry during the past year.

The manufacturing industry, particularly of durable goods added substantial numbers of jobs for the third straight month. Again, the gains were across many of the durable groups, but the strongest rebound was in the transportation equipment industry. From February through April, a major firm had ceased production one week each month to control inventory. These shut-downs occurred during the reference week of our employer survey and, therefore, lowered the employment estimate.

There was a resurgence of retail trade employment during May. On a seasonally-adjusted basis, retail trade grew strongly after a period of retrenchment during the past nine months. Job growth was unusally strong over the month in both building materials and eating and drinking establishments, but department stores continued to trim jobs. Nearly 2,000 jobs in business serviceswere created. About 1,400 of these were in the personnel services industry.

Several months ago we proposed that this industry would begin growing at the early stages of a recovery as employers needed to add help. Since January, the number of jobs in the personnel services industry has increased from 21,250 to 23,500 or by 10.6%, but still about 4,150 jobs below its peak in June 1989.

By Bruce Steuernagel

Labor Force Estimates

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	May 1991	Apr. 1991	May 1990	May 1991	Apr. 1991	May 1990	May 1991	Apr. 1991	May 1990
Mpls-St. Paul	1,351,302	1,351,585	1,335,213	72,109	63,087	58,164	5.1	4.5	4.2
REGION 11	1,269,092	1,269,506	1,253,026	66,943	56,610	54,066	5.0	4.3	4.1
Anoka	130,520	130,562	128,868	8,249	7,301	6,390	5.9	5.3	4.7
Carver	24,320	24,328	24,012	1,217	1,158	850	4.8	4.5	3.4
Dakota	142,932	142,979	141,123	7,341	6,642	5,547	4.9	4.4	3.8
Hennepin	600,482	600,678	592,880	31,408	25,172	26,192	5.0	4.0	4.2
Ramsey	268,527	268,615	265,127	13,465	11,113	11,064	4.8	4.0	4.0
Scott	28,754	28,763	28,390	1,704	1,770	1,264	5.6	5.8	4.3
Washington	73,557	73,581	72,626	3,559	3,454	2,759	4.6	4.5	3.7
Chisago	14,032	14,036	13,854	1,006	1,256	957	6.7	8.2	6.5
Isanti	11,881	11,885	11,731	1,023	991	691	7.9	7.7	5.6
Wright	32,497	32,508	32,086	2,302	2,572	1,760	6.6	7.3	5.2
St. Croix, WI	23,800	23,651	24,518	833	1,659	691	3.4	6.6	2.7
Bloomington	56,295	56,314	55,583	2,868	2,181	2,249	4.8	3.7	3.9
Minneapolis	198,027	198,092	195,520	11,428	9,197	10,096	5.5	4.4	4.9
St. Paul	138,453	138,496	136,699	8,203	6,875	6,882	5.6	4.7	4.8

Twin Cities Nonfarm Wage & Salary Jobs, Hours & Earnings

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT 1/ (thousands)			PERCENT CHANGE FROM		PRODUCTION WORKERS & HOURS & EARNINGS 2/					
						Average Weekly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings	
	May 1991	Apr. 1991	May 1990	Apr. 1991	May 1990	May 1991	May 1990	May 1991	May 1990	May 1991	May 1990
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	**1,379.5**	**1,360.6**	**1,376.4**	**1.4**	**0.2**	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goods Producing	**302.4**	**296.4**	**312.7**	**2.0**	**-3.3**	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mining	**0.5**	**0.5**	**0.7**	**1.5**	**-18.3**	**659.20**	**688.42**	**40.0**	**42.6**	**16.48**	**16.16**
Construction	**47.4**	**43.4**	**51.3**	**9.3**	**-7.5**	**680.03**	**670.65**	**36.6**	**37.3**	**18.58**	**17.98**
Manufacturing	**254.5**	**252.5**	**260.8**	**0.8**	**-2.4**	**484.40**	**474.36**	**40.0**	**40.2**	**12.11**	**11.80**
Durable Goods	149.2	147.3	156.3	1.3	-4.5	494.86	477.59	40.2	40.1	12.31	11.91
Lumber and Furniture	9.4	9.2	9.5	2.0	-1.3	590.32	547.60	40.6	37.1	14.54	14.76
Stone, Clay and Glass	2.8	2.6	2.9	6.2	-5.1	459.31	522.70	38.5	40.9	11.93	12.78
Primary Metals	4.5	4.3	4.6	2.9	-2.9	462.08	454.44	39.8	41.2	11.61	11.03
Fabricated Metals	25.3	25.4	26.3	-0.3	-3.7	512.50	491.83	41.0	41.4	12.50	11.88
Industrial Machinery	51.0	50.8	54.5	0.2	-6.4	521.78	499.69	39.8	40.2	13.11	12.43
Office and Computing	20.8	20.6	23.1	0.7	-10.0	570.62	574.67	40.1	42.6	14.23	13.49
Electronic Equipment	18.0	18.2	18.8	-0.7	-4.0	410.46	392.03	40.4	39.4	10.16	9.95
Transportation Equipment	4.9	3.3	5.7	46.5	-15.0	616.59	665.76	40.3	43.4	15.30	15.34
Instruments and Related	29.4	29.4	29.7	0.2	-0.8	453.69	442.67	40.4	40.5	11.23	10.93
Misc. Manufacturing	4.0	4.0	4.3	-2.1	-7.7	428.88	448.25	36.5	37.7	11.75	11.89
Nondurable Goods	105.3	105.2	104.5	0.1	0.7	470.45	469.09	39.7	40.3	11.85	11.64
Food & Beverage Products	18.8	18.4	18.3	2.0	2.6	487.89	487.73	41.7	43.2	11.70	11.29
Paper Products	26.2	26.2	26.0	0.1	1.0	504.60	491.26	40.4	40.3	12.49	12.19
Printing and Publishing	37.4	37.6	36.5	-0.6	2.5	423.89	456.25	36.7	38.6	11.55	11.82
Chemicals and Petroleum	9.8	9.9	9.9	-0.9	-1.3	642.00	579.36	42.8	40.6	15.00	14.27
Rubber and Plastic	11.0	11.0	11.2	0.0	-1.8	444.32	425.04	42.6	42.0	10.43	10.12
Service Producing	**1,077.1**	**1,064.2**	**1,063.8**	**1.2**	**1.3**	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transp. Comm., & Util.	**76.2**	**75.3**	**76.9**	**1.1**	**-1.0**	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	54.7	53.9	55.3	1.4	-1.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trucking & Warehousing	16.4	16.2	17.4	1.6	-5.7	392.62	381.60	29.3	31.1	13.40	12.27
Communication & Utilities	21.5	21.4	21.6	0.5	-0.6	618.37	581.79	38.6	38.1	16.02	15.27
Trade	**326.1**	**321.5**	**329.2**	**1.5**	**-0.9**	**277.54**	**267.90**	**29.4**	**29.8**	**9.44**	**8.99**
Wholesale	83.6	82.6	84.1	1.2	-0.6	466.35	452.70	37.1	37.6	12.57	12.04
Retail	242.6	238.8	245.2	1.6	-1.1	219.24	211.8[illegible]	27.0	27.4	8.12	7.73
Building Materials	10.9	10.2	11.1	6.3	-2.1	369.77	428.00	35.9	40.0	10.30	10.70
General Merchandise	36.8	36.9	39.5	-0.2	-6.8	213.44	195.05	25.5	25.2	8.37	7.74
Food Stores	30.1	29.7	29.5	1.5	2.0	269.23	263.06	28.4	29.1	9.48	9.04
Automotive	25.3	25.1	25.1	0.6	0.6	353.40	329.00	37.2	35.8	9.50	9.19
Apparel	13.1	12.9	13.2	1.4	-0.9	117.98	132.71	19.5	21.2	6.05	6.26
Home Furnishings	10.1	10.1	10.7	0.1	-5.0	337.05	312.94	31.5	31.2	10.70	10.03
Eating and Drinking	84.5	82.3	84.7	2.6	-0.2	147.82	135.46	23.5	23.6	6.29	5.74
Fin., Insur., Real Estate	**98.0**	**97.5**	**96.4**	**0.5**	**1.6**						
Finance	41.3	41.0	40.7	0.8	1.5						
Insurance	39.3	39.4	38.7	-0.1	1.6						
Real Estate	17.4	17.2	17.0	1.3	2.1						
Services	**382.5**	**378.2**	**369.1**	**1.1**	**3.6**						
Personal Services	17.7	18.4	17.6	-3.5	0.6						
Business Services	81.7	79.8	80.1	2.4	2.0						
Repair Services	17.2	17.2	17.0	-0.1	0.8						
Health Services	97.2	96.9	93.6	0.4	3.8						
Nursing Homes	22.8	22.8	22.8	0.2	0.0						
Hospitals	34.1	34.0	33.1	0.2	2.8						
Legal Services	13.1	13.1	12.6	-0.1	4.5						
Private Education	19.6	19.9	19.4	-1.3	1.4						
Government	**194.3**	**191.7**	**192.1**	**1.3**	**1.1**						
Federal	21.2	21.2	23.6	-0.1	-10.4						
State	56.6	56.6	56.1	0.0	0.8						
Education	32.7	32.5	32.0	0.6	2.2						
Local	116.5	113.9	112.3	2.3	3.7						
Education	63.5	62.1	61.2	2.2	3.8						

Note: Not all industry sub-groups are shown for every major industry category.

1/ Totals may not add because of roundings.

2/ Average earnings data are on a "gross" basis and are derived from reports of payroll for full-time and part-time production or non-supervisory workers. The payroll is reported before deductions of any kind. Bonuses, retroactive pay, tips, payment in kind, and "fringe benefits" are excluded.

Southern Minnesota

Labor Force Estimates

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	May 1991	Apr. 1991	May 1990	May 1991	Apr. 1991	May 1990	May 1991	Apr. 1991	May 1990
REGION 6W	**25,882**	**25,031**	**24,203**	**1,118**	**1,282**	**931**	**4.1**	**4.9**	**3.7**
Big Stone	3,030	2,890	2,818	157	182	119	4.9	5.9	4.1
Chippewa	7,354	7,060	6,932	317	368	269	4.1	5.0	3.7
Lac Qui Parle	4,394	4,249	4,026	101	147	132	2.2	3.3	3.2
Swift	5,022	4,933	4,748	320	317	222	6.0	6.0	4.5
Yellow Med.	6,082	5,899	5,679	223	268	189	3.5	4.3	3.2
REGION 8	**65,822**	**63,623**	**61,136**	**2,513**	**2,455**	**2,449**	**3.7**	**3.7**	**3.9**
Cottonwood	6,489	6,329	6,160	371	313	201	5.4	4.7	3.2
Jackson	6,066	5,844	5,508	295	310	243	4.6	5.0	4.2
Lincoln	3,543	3,368	3,226	150	147	145	4.1	4.2	4.3
Lyon	13,499	13,040	12,467	505	517	414	3.6	3.8	3.2
Murray	5,311	5,000	4,834	190	222	217	3.5	4.3	4.3
Nobles	12,231	11,974	11,501	334	309	367	2.7	2.5	3.1
Pipestone	5,336	5,210	5,119	227	227	360	4.1	4.2	6.6
Redwood	8,073	7,790	7,546	301	284	321	3.6	3.5	4.1
Rock	5,274	5,068	4,775	140	126	181	2.6	2.4	3.7
REGION 9	**114,733**	**112,415**	**108,491**	**6,040**	**5,458**	**4,191**	**5.0**	**4.6**	**3.7**
Blue Earth	29,062	28,882	28,000	1,128	990	772	3.7	3.3	2.7
Brown	14,723	14,223	13,642	655	646	533	4.3	4.3	3.8
Faribault	7,942	7,596	7,432	596	524	359	7.0	6.5	4.6
LeSueur	10,985	10,687	10,391	981	937	659	8.2	8.1	6.0
Martin	12,078	11,782	11,538	994	711	590	7.6	5.7	4.9
Nicollet	15,864	15,766	15,284	536	501	472	3.3	3.1	3.0
Sibley	7,267	6,969	6,641	375	443	292	4.9	6.0	4.2
Waseca	10,501	10,261	9,541	466	420	323	4.2	3.9	3.3
Watonwan	6,311	6,249	6,022	309	286	191	4.7	4.4	3.1
REGION 10	**231,466**	**227,850**	**220,811**	**11,470**	**10,108**	**9,785**	**4.7**	**4.2**	**4.2**
Dodge	8,293	8,046	8,201	499	522	380	5.7	6.1	4.4
Fillmore	10,703	10,361	9,708	676	673	525	5.9	6.1	5.1
Freeborn	16,197	16,079	15,071	1,099	923	2,239	6.4	5.4	12.9
Goodhue	22,314	22,126	20,998	991	896	786	4.3	3.9	3.6
Houston	9,839	9,421	9,453	488	543	318	4.7	5.4	3.3
Mower	18,657	18,341	17,407	810	605	717	4.2	3.2	4.0
Olmsted	64,395	64,135	62,116	2,335	1,939	1,919	3.5	2.9	3.0
Rice	28,341	27,963	27,291	1,540	1,405	900	5.2	4.8	3.2
Steele	16,807	16,269	16,056	934	827	510	5.3	4.8	3.1
Wabasha	9,256	8,925	8,631	620	494	426	6.3	5.2	4.7
Winona	26,664	26,184	25,879	1,478	1,281	1,065	5.3	4.7	4.0
Rochester Cty	40,063	39,902	38,645	1,696	1,355	1,442	4.1	3.3	3.6

Rochester MSA Nonfarm Wage & Salary Jobs

Industry	Employment			% Change From	
	May 1991	Apr. 1991	May 1990	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	**67,257**	**66,621**	**65,958**	**1.0**	**2.0**
Goods Producing	**14,042**	**13,809**	**14,212**	**1.7**	**-1.2**
Construction and Mining	2,259	2,044	2,228	10.5	1.4
Manufacturing	11,783	11,765	11,984	0.2	-1.7
Durable Goods	9,912	9,883	10,080	0.3	-1.7
Nondurable Goods	1,871	1,882	1,904	-0.6	-1.7
Service Producing	**53,215**	**52,812**	**51,746**	**0.8**	**2.8**
Transp., Comm., & Util.	1,898	1,900	1,880	-0.1	1.0
Trade	13,407	13,211	13,260	1.5	1.1
Wholesale	1,662	1,635	1,651	1.7	0.7
Retail	11,745	11,576	11,609	1.5	1.2
Finan., Insur., & Re. Estate	1,797	1,785	1,818	0.7	-1.2
Services	28,990	28,884	27,603	0.4	5.0
Health	19,503	19,448	18,532	0.3	5.2
Other Services	9,487	9,436	9,071	0.5	4.6
Government	7,123	7,032	7,185	1.3	-0.9

Unemployment Rates Rise In May

Unemployment rates rose over the year in Regions 6W, 9, and 10. Over the month, they rose in Regions 9 and 10.

The rise in unemployment rates over April may have been exaggerated when our labor force estimates were calibrated to the Minnesota portion of the Current Population Survey. The relatively small state sample of 800 households can cause significant sampling error.

The Rochester MSA's unemployment rate increased from 2.9% in April to 3.5% in May. Normally, the rate drops between April and May. Unemployment claims and other data do not suggest that the jobless rate dipped that strongly in April. Discounting April, the average unemployment rate so far during 1991 is 3.4% compared to 3.3% for the first five months of 1990.

Payroll job creation in the Rochester MSA speeded up in May over April, although over-the-year growth was slower. The establishment-based estimate of jobs shows a 2.0% increase between April and May compared to 0.2% March and April. Over the year, however, payroll jobs were up 2.0% over last May compared to 2.6% between April 1990 and April 1991.

The only major industry in the Rochester MSA to add significant jobs over the month was construction/mining which jumped 10.5%. Much of that was seasonal, but still remarkable in light of the stagnation the construction industry is experiencing in most other areas of the state and nation. Adding the most jobs over the month, despite growing only 1.5%, was retail trade with 169 more workers. Compared with last May, manufacturing employed 1.7% fewer workers, and finance/insurance/real estate and government were down slightly. The service industry--both health and other--created 1,386 jobs, enough to override other job losses and net the MSA its 1,299 additional payroll jobs since last May.

By Ron Daws

Central and Northwest Minnesota

Labor Force Estimates

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	May 1991	Apr. 1991	May 1990	May 1991	Apr. 1991	May 1990	May 1991	Apr. 1991	May 1990
REGION 1	**43,395**	**41,621**	**41,165**	**4,703**	**4,189**	**3,645**	**8.6**	**9.1**	**8.1**
Kittson	2,714	2,603	2,418	221	215	210	7.5	7.6	8.0
Marshall	4,991	4,696	4,621	689	759	629	12.1	13.9	12.0
Norman	3,720	3,555	3,512	352	315	214	8.6	8.1	5.7
Pennington	6,705	6,309	6,579	691	658	794	9.3	9.4	10.8
Polk	14,314	13,942	13,641	1,453	1,148	1,189	9.2	7.6	8.0
Red Lake	1,647	1,581	1,544	289	267	289	14.9	14.4	15.8
Roseau	9,304	8,935	8,850	408	827	320	4.2	8.5	3.5
REGION 2	**32,574**	**31,123**	**30,987**	**2,944**	**2,871**	**2,250**	**8.3**	**8.4**	**6.8**
Beltrami	16,846	16,362	16,154	1,338	1,217	1,016	7.4	6.9	5.9
Clearwater	3,595	3,242	3,394	614	669	487	14.6	17.1	12.5
Hubbard	7,303	6,960	7,038	637	653	499	8.0	8.6	6.6
Lake of Woods	2,233	2,051	1,984	91	82	75	3.9	3.8	3.6
Mahnomen	2,597	2,508	2,417	264	250	173	9.2	9.1	6.7
REGION 4	**102,193**	**99,253**	**97,362**	**5,931**	**6,134**	**4,786**	**5.5**	**5.8**	**4.7**
Becker	14,259	13,741	13,671	1,076	1,101	827	7.0	7.4	5.7
Clay	25,627	25,608	24,925	1,295	1,353	1,001	4.8	5.0	3.9
Douglas	15,934	15,433	15,305	891	859	796	5.3	5.3	4.9
Grant	3,222	3,074	2,949	177	224	179	5.2	6.8	5.7
Otter Tail	26,804	25,669	25,091	1,713	1,770	1,312	6.0	6.5	5.0
Pope	4,988	4,778	4,706	330	355	271	6.2	6.9	5.4
Stevens	5,590	5,389	5,219	134	155	132	2.3	2.8	2.5
Traverse	2,204	2,109	2,082	107	113	103	4.6	5.1	4.7
Wilkin	3,565	3,452	3,414	208	204	165	5.5	5.6	4.6
REGION 5	**63,330**	**59,978**	**59,825**	**5,226**	**5,456**	**4,145**	**7.6**	**8.3**	**6.5**
Cass	9,579	8,616	8,719	963	971	766	9.1	10.1	8.1
Crow Wing	22,830	21,483	22,043	1,548	1,583	1,236	6.3	6.9	5.3
Morrison	14,465	14,080	13,711	1,330	1,527	1,087	8.4	9.8	7.3
Todd	11,369	10,889	10,467	917	930	745	7.5	7.9	6.6
Wadena	5,087	4,910	4,885	468	445	311	8.4	8.3	6.0
REGION 6E	**57,619**	**56,203**	**53,332**	**3,570**	**3,235**	**2,798**	**5.8**	**5.4**	**5.0**
Kandiyohi	21,421	20,947	19,940	1,014	921	843	4.5	4.2	4.1
McLeod	17,373	17,201	16,298	1,004	847	765	5.5	4.7	4.5
Meeker	9,037	8,768	8,459	975	980	623	9.7	10.1	6.9
Renville	9,788	9,287	8,635	577	487	567	5.6	5.0	6.2
REGION 7E	**52,826**	**51,886**	**50,872**	**4,633**	**4,816**	**3,645**	**8.1**	**8.5**	**6.7**
Chisago	14,032	14,036	13,854	1,006	1,256	957	6.7	8.2	6.5
Isanti	11,881	11,885	11,731	1,023	991	691	7.9	7.7	5.6
Kanabec	5,619	5,365	5,340	756	691	585	11.9	11.4	9.9
Mille Lacs	11,025	10,710	10,116	824	820	572	7.0	7.1	5.4
Pine	10,269	9,890	9,831	1,024	1,058	840	9.1	9.7	7.9
REGION 7W	**132,048**	**130,836**	**126,869**	**9,159**	**8,781**	**7,148**	**6.5**	**6.3**	**5.3**
Benton	15,700	15,507	14,948	1,118	1,049	873	6.6	6.3	5.5
Sherburne	19,295	19,058	18,371	1,669	1,402	1,152	8.0	6.9	5.9
Stearns	64,556	63,763	61,464	4,070	3,758	3,363	5.9	5.6	5.2
Wright	32,497	32,508	32,086	2,302	2,572	1,760	6.6	7.3	5.2
St. Cloud MSA	99,552	98,328	94,783	6,858	6,209	5,389	6.4	5.9	5.4

St. Cloud MSA Nonfarm Wage & Salary Jobs

Industry	Employment			% Change From	
	May 1991	Apr. 1991	May 1990	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	**80,676**	**79,565**	**79,767**	**1.4**	**1.1**
Goods Producing	**17,992**	**17,781**	**18,487**	**1.2**	**-2.7**
Construction and Mining	3,302	3,128	3,957	5.6	-16.6
Manufacturing	14,690	14,653	14,530	0.3	1.1
Durable Goods	8,555	8,558	8,424	0.0	1.6
Nondurable Goods	6,135	6,095	6,106	0.7	0.5
Service Producing	**62,684**	**61,784**	**61,280**	**1.5**	**2.3**
Transp., Comm., & Util.	4,096	4,021	3,982	1.9	2.9
Trade	23,272	23,075	22,670	0.9	2.7
Wholesale	3,688	3,651	3,775	1.0	-2.3
Retail	19,584	19,424	18,895	0.8	3.6
Finan., Insur., & Re. Estate	2,544	2,516	2,399	1.1	6.0
Services	18,738	18,432	18,401	1.7	1.8
Health	6,234	6,211	5,691	0.4	9.5
Other Services	12,504	12,221	12,710	2.3	-1.6
Government	14,034	13,740	13,828	2.1	1.5

Job Are Being Created, But Not Fast Enough To Accomodate the Number of People Seeking Work

According to the labor force figures, jobs are being created in all of the regions at a fairly energetic clip. Increases since last May ranged from 3.8% more jobs in Region 7E all the way to 8.0% more in Region 6E. Those may be over-estimates produced by sampling error in the Minnesota portion of the national Current Population Survey. In the St. Cloud MSA, for example, total employment rose 5.0% over the year, but the employer-based job estimates jobs increased 1.1%.

Coupled with job gains, unemployment rates also rose over the year, and except for Regions 6E and 7W, over the month. Jobs and unemployment can both increase when the economy creates jobs, but not fast enough to satisfy the number of people looking for work.

The unemployment rate did drop dramatically from 8.5% in April to 4.2% in May in Roseau County when workers laid off at a major snowmobile manufacturer returned to work.

In the St. Cloud MSA, construction/mining employment dropped 16.6% over the year owing to the completion of several schools. The fastest growing industries over the year were health services (up 543 or 9.5%), and finance/insurance/real estate (up 145 or 6.0%).

Between April and May, there was less job movement in the MSA. Construction/mining increased seasonally 5.6%, but the much larger non-medical services and government added more workers even though increasing just over two percent.

By Ron Daws

Northeast Minnesota

Unemployment Rates Jump in May

Jobless rates rose in May from April, but probably less than the figures suggest. Although Region 3's rate was 7.5% in April and jumped to 8.3% in May, chances are that April's rates were under estimated due to sampling error in Minnesota's portion of the national sample. Our independent estimates are calibrated to those sample results.

Duluth's jobless rate was 6.3% in May compared to last May's 5.3%. Much of that jump was due to the filing of 170 claims for unemployment insurance as result of a major meat processor laying off workers. Still, 6.3% is not an alarmingly high rate; except for 1986, 1988 and 1989, Duluth's rates have been higher during May during the 1980s. In both the region and Duluth, rates rose over the month.

Never during May have more people in the region or in Duluth worked since pre-recessionary 1981. Employment also rose over the month in Region 3 and Duluth. Over the year, employment rose 0.9% in Region 3, and 1.3% in Duluth.

Employer-based payroll jobs in the Duluth MSA also continued to increase, albeit slowly. Over both the month and year, jobs were up about one percent. Construction was a major job creator over both periods, rising seasonally (over the month) 13.9%, and annually 5.2%. In many other areas of the state and nation construction flounders.

Over the month there was very little change in nonfarm job levels among major industries, but from May 1990 to May 1991, jobs were generally up except in transportation/communication/utilities and retail trade. Duluth's retail trade sector has softened dramatically over the last two months due to consumer caution.

There were 213 (2.1%) fewer jobs this April than last April, and 398 (3.9%) fewer jobs this May than last May. Retail trade jobs normally increase during April and May. *By Ron Daws*

Labor Force Estimates

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	May 1991	Apr. 1991	May 1990	May 1991	Apr. 1991	May 1990	May 1991	Apr. 1991	May 1990
REGION 3	139,951	137,889	138,684	12,719	11,209	10,138	8.3	7.5	6.8
Aitkin	5,596	5,258	5,123	666	638	514	10.6	10.8	9.1
Carlton	12,251	12,090	12,131	1,206	1,095	952	9.0	8.3	7.3
Cook	2,815	2,496	2,569	171	203	209	5.7	7.5	7.5
Itasca	16,917	16,420	16,637	2,070	1,754	1,687	10.9	9.7	9.2
Koochiching	9,093	8,569	10,273	1,142	919	551	11.2	9.7	5.1
Lake	4,509	4,238	4,299	493	461	339	9.9	9.8	7.3
St. Louis	88,770	88,818	87,652	6,971	6,139	5,886	7.3	6.5	6.3
City of Duluth	36,539	38,559	38,053	2,585	2,197	2,132	6.3	5.4	5.3
Balance St. Louis	50,231	50,259	49,599	4,386	3,942	3,754	8.0	7.3	7.0

Duluth & Duluth Superior MSA Nonfarm Wage & Salary Jobs

Industry	DULUTH					DULUTH SUPERIOR				
	Employment			% Change From		Employment			% Change From	
	May 1991	Apr. 1991	May 1990	Month Ago	Year Ago	May 1991	Apr. 1991	May 1990	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	50,129	49,671	49,653	0.9	1.0	98,680	97,636	98,343	1.1	0.3
Goods Producing	6,075	5,860	5,855	3.7	3.8	17,804	17,264	17,212	3.1	3.4
Mining	Small combined with construction					5,431	5,367	5,196	1.2	4.5
Construction	1,815	1,593	1,725	13.9	5.2	3,428	2,951	3,535	16.2	-3.0
Manufacturing	4,260	4,267	4,130	-0.2	3.1	8,945	8,946	8,481	0.0	5.5
Durable Goods	1,626	1,591	1,591	2.2	2.2	4,662	4,632	4,451	0.6	4.7
Nondurable Goods	2,634	2,676	2,539	-1.6	3.7	4,283	4,314	4,030	-0.7	6.3
Service Producing	44,054	43,811	43,798	0.6	0.6	80,876	80,372	81,131	0.6	-0.3
Transp., Comm., & Util.	3,015	2,945	3,183	2.4	-5.3	5,860	5,777	6,041	1.4	-3.0
Trade	11,677	11,674	11,974	0.0	-2.5	23,850	23,726	24,721	0.5	-3.5
Wholesale	1,888	1,896	1,787	-0.4	5.7	3,956	3,934	3,899	0.6	1.5
Retail	9,789	9,778	10,187	0.1	-3.9	19,894	19,792	20,822	0.5	-4.5
Finan., Insur., & Re. Estate	1,992	1,978	1,933	0.7	3.1	3,296	3,286	3,178	0.3	3.7
Services	15,017	14,968	14,471	0.3	3.8	24,956	25,013	24,446	-0.2	2.1
Health	6,193	6,184	5,899	0.1	5.0	9,842	10,015	9,584	-1.7	2.7
Other Services	8,824	8,784	8,572	0.5	2.9	15,114	14,998	14,862	0.8	1.7
Government	12,353	12,246	12,237	0.9	0.9	22,914	22,570	22,745	1.5	0.7

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For Your Information

If you've been a reader of our publications over the years, you probably noticed that we periodically revise them. While we will continue to look for better ways to structure and produce them (often in the face of shrinking budgets), three of our publications have already walked away with top honors at the 1991 Labor Market Information Publication Awards, sponsored by the Interstate Conference of Employment Security Agencies (ICESA). Competing with our counterparts in all 50 states, we won first place for *Minnesota Employment 1990*. Two other publications, *Minnesota Careers* and this *Minnesota Labor Market Review*, were among the top five in their respective categories.

MINNESOTA
CAREERS

Minnesota
Labor
Market
Review

MINNESOTA EMPLOYMENT 1990

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Minnesota Labor Market Review

August 1991

Minnesota

Third Straight Month of Job Growth Confirms Economic Recovery

Job creation in Minnesota kicked into high gear this spring. The number of seasonally-adjusted nonfarm payroll jobs increased three straight months, signalling an end to our brief economic downturn. The 17,700 jobs added in May and June exceeded the 13,500 lost from last October through March. Minnesota's job count is again at an all-time high.

The most recent month's figures for Minnesota are extraordinary for two reasons. First, the state had its largest May-to-June gain in actual jobs (before seasonal adjustment) for the past 11 years. Second, after seasonal adjustment, every major industry group added workers. That hasn't happened since October 1989. Job growth is not only strong, it is also broad based. The formerly weak sectors -- construction, manufacturing, trade and transportation -- are starting to recall workers. Financial and other services continue to add jobs. Even government was showing positive, though erratic, growth through June.

How shallow was the recession in Minnesota? The number of jobs only declined for five months, half as long as in the nation. And at no time during 1990 or 1991 was the monthly job count lower than the previous year's tally. The U.S. continues to have fewer jobs than a year earlier, with all industries except transportation affected more severely there than here. Minnesota's most surprisingly strong industry is financial services. Banks, credit agencies, brokers, insurance companies and real estate firms all employ more people now than last year.

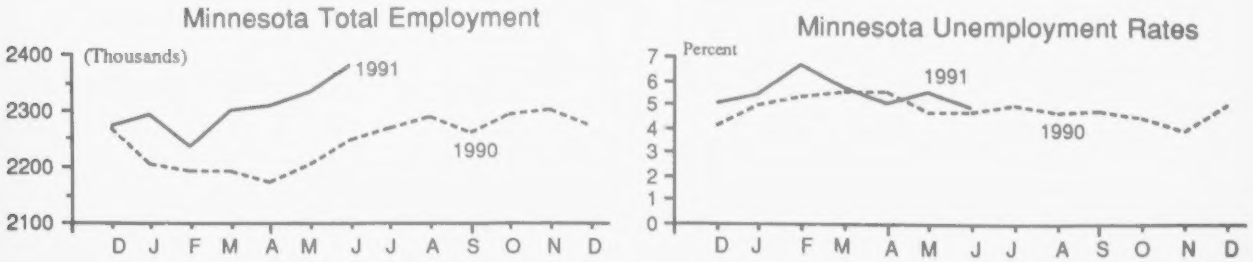
Current Labor Force Estimates

	Minnesota (In Thousands)			% Change From		United States (In Thousands)			% Change From	
	Jun 91	May 91	Jun 90	May 91	Jun 90	Jun 91	May 91	Jun90	May 91	Jun 90
Labor Force	2499.2	2467.4	2419.7	1.3	3.3	127,054	124,857	124,307	1.8	0.6
Employment	2380.2	2331.0	2308.7	2.1	3.1	118,280	116,624	119,605	1.4	-1.1
Unemployment	118.9	136.4	110.7	-22.8	7.4	8,774	8,233	6,702	6.6	30.9
Actual Unemp. Rate	4.8	5.5	4.6	-	-	6.9	6.6	5.3	-	-
Seasonally Adj. Rate	-	-	-	-	-	7.0	6.9	5.3	-	-

Unemployment usually goes up when students flood the labor markets in summer, but this year the economic recovery may be an offsetting factor. The state unemployment rate fell to 4.8% in June, bringing its six-month average to 5.5%. That's not a whole lot different from the 5.1% during the first half of 1990. The job market in Minnesota has gotten only a little bit tighter, with renewed signs that easing may be coming.

By Don Hilber

Minnesota Employment and Unemployment Rates - 1990 and 1991



Minnesota Nonfarm Wage & Salary Jobs, Hours & Earnings

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT 1/ (thousands)			PERCENT CHANGE FROM		PRODUCTION WORKERS & HOURS & EARNINGS 2/					
						Average Weekly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings	
	June 1991	May 1991	June 1990	May 1991	June 1990	June 1991	June 1990	June 1991	June 1990	June 1991	June 1990
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	2,172.9	2,148.6	2,162.3	1.1	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goods Producing	490.6	474.7	500.2	3.3	-1.9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mining	8.9	8.7	8.6	2.2	3.3	673.50	633.68	44.9	44.5	15.00	14.24
Metal Mining	6.6	6.6	6.4	0.4	3.3	712.07	653.75	44.7	43.7	15.93	14.96
Construction	83.3	76.3	88.2	9.2	-5.6	688.91	630.11	40.5	38.8	17.01	16.24
Manufacturing	398.4	389.8	403.3	2.2	-1.2	466.97	449.92	40.5	40.1	11.53	11.22
Durable Goods	224.7	222.1	232.4	1.1	-3.3	486.93	466.75	41.3	40.8	11.79	11.44
Lumber and Furniture	23.6	22.4	23.4	5.4	0.7	541.58	498.51	41.5	38.2	13.05	13.05
Stone, Clay and Glass	9.0	8.5	9.3	5.5	-3.8	514.29	501.40	43.4	42.6	11.85	11.77
Primary Metals	6.2	6.2	6.5	-0.2	-4.7	503.16	463.01	42.0	41.6	11.98	11.13
Fabricated Metals	33.7	33.6	34.7	0.3	-3.0	517.91	495.07	41.7	42.9	12.42	11.54
Industrial Machinery	73.4	73.5	77.3	-0.1	-5.0	515.42	478.39	41.3	40.1	12.48	11.93
Office and Computing	32.6	32.3	34.4	0.8	-5.2	551.00	507.10	43.8	42.4	12.58	11.96
Electronic Equipment	29.4	29.1	30.4	1.2	-3.1	401.70	400.16	41.2	41.0	9.75	9.76
Transportation Equipment	10.7	10.5	11.6	1.3	-7.7	470.30	533.58	38.9	43.7	12.09	12.21
Instruments and Related	32.9	32.6	33.1	0.9	-0.5	440.75	427.22	41.0	41.0	10.75	10.42
Misc. Manufacturing	5.9	5.8	6.2	1.8	-5.0	391.64	411.64	38.7	37.8	10.12	10.89
Nondurable Goods	173.8	167.7	170.9	3.6	1.7	443.52	429.94	39.6	39.3	11.20	10.94
Food & Beverage Products	52.7	48.2	50.2	9.5	5.0	397.77	383.55	39.5	39.5	10.07	9.71
Textiles & Apparel	4.9	4.8	5.0	2.6	-3.3	290.60	288.62	35.7	34.9	8.14	8.27
Paper Products	35.4	34.4	34.6	2.7	2.3	571.20	551.46	42.5	42.0	13.44	13.13
Printing and Publishing	52.5	52.3	51.9	0.3	1.2	410.70	420.00	36.9	37.5	11.13	11.20
Chemicals and Petroleum	11.3	11.3	12.1	0.6	-5.9	595.23	549.12	41.8	41.6	14.24	13.20
Rubber, Plastic & Leather	16.9	16.7	17.1	1.4	-1.2	428.45	385.52	41.8	39.5	10.25	9.76
Service Producing	1,682.3	1,673.9	1,662.1	0.5	1.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transp., Comm., & Util.	109.5	108.9	110.1	0.5	-0.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	74.8	74.7	75.0	0.2	-0.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trucking & Warehousing	27.6	26.8	27.9	2.8	-1.1	393.87	427.35	32.1	35.0	12.27	12.21
Communication & Utilities	34.7	34.3	35.1	1.2	-1.2	664.10	617.00	40.2	39.4	16.52	15.66
Trade	524.7	516.4	526.3	1.6	-0.3	255.30	239.89	30.0	29.8	8.51	8.05
Wholesale	127.4	126.3	127.9	0.8	-0.4	433.96	409.55	38.0	37.3	11.42	10.98
Retail	397.3	390.0	398.4	1.9	-0.3	203.60	190.99	27.7	27.6	7.35	6.92
Building Materials	18.8	18.6	19.1	1.2	-1.4	339.46	355.15	38.4	39.2	8.84	9.06
General Merchandise	53.7	52.8	55.6	1.6	-3.5	203.46	189.29	27.2	26.4	7.48	7.17
Food Stores	57.0	55.5	55.5	2.7	2.7	224.52	200.22	28.1	28.2	7.99	7.10
Automotive	44.1	43.6	44.0	1.3	0.3	309.40	303.81	35.0	35.7	8.84	8.51
Apparel	19.6	19.4	19.9	1.3	-1.1	131.45	133.58	21.8	22.3	6.03	5.99
Home Furnishings	15.0	14.9	15.4	1.0	-2.5	297.43	283.04	32.4	32.2	9.18	8.79
Eating and Drinking	138.1	134.6	138.4	2.6	-0.2	136.32	119.85	24.3	23.5	5.61	5.10
Fin., Insur., Real Estate	127.0	125.7	124.9	1.1	1.7						
Finance	57.6	57.2	56.4	0.8	2.2						
Insurance	47.3	47.1	46.6	0.6	1.5						
Real Estate	22.1	21.4	21.9	2.8	0.8						
Services	572.8	570.8	555.7	0.3	3.1						
Personal Services	25.3	25.1	24.8	0.7	1.8						
Business Services	95.8	94.2	94.7	1.7	1.1						
Repair Services	23.7	23.4	23.4	1.0	1.2						
Health Services	173.4	171.6	167.2	1.0	3.7						
Nursing Homes	44.1	43.9	43.7	0.3	0.9						
Hospitals	58.1	57.3	56.2	1.5	3.4						
Legal Services	16.4	16.0	16.1	2.6	1.9						
Private Education	26.8	35.6	26.0	-24.7	3.0						
Government	348.3	352.1	345.1	-1.1	0.9						
Federal	34.4	34.0	35.8	1.3	-3.9						
State	79.7	87.2	78.8	-8.6	1.1						
Education	42.0	49.6	40.9	-15.3	2.7						
Local	234.1	230.8	230.5	1.4	1.6						
Education	121.9	125.2	120.6	-2.6	1.1						

Note: Not all industry sub-groups are shown for every major industry category.

1/ Totals may not add because of rounding.

2/ Average earnings data are on a "gross" basis and are derived from reports of payroll for full-time and part-time production or non-supervisory workers. The payroll is reported before deductions of any kind. Bonuses, retroactive pay, tips, payment in kind, and "fringe benefits" are excluded.

Minneapolis-St. Paul MSA

Minneapolis-St. Paul Area Jobless Rate Drops Unexpectedly

The unemployment rate for the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area dropped sharply to 4.5% in June, a decrease of 0.6 of a percentage point from May's 5.1%. The drop in the jobless rate for June continued the history of wildly fluctuating figures during the first half of 1991. The metro area unemployment rate has bounced between 4.4 and 5.5% during the first six months of the year, averaging 4.8%, half a percentage point higher than the same period a year ago.

It is quite unusual for the unemployment rate to drop between May and June because students completing the school year typically flood the labor market and are unable to find jobs immediately Over the past 10 years, the jobless rate has risen by an average of 0.4 of a percentage point, and the number of unemployed has increased by an average of 11.7%. This year the number of unemployed workers dropped 10%. Less unemployment is welcome but suspicious because labor market conditions for students have been tighter in 1991 than in many years. Part of the drop in the rate may reflect sampling error in the Current Employment Survey to which our independent labor force estimates are calibrated.

The June survey of area firms showed improvement in the job picture for the third consecutive month. Most of the growth occurred in the service-producing sector. After seasonal adjustment, employment rose significantly in retail trade and services reflecting improvement in consumer spending and higher demand for business services. For example, the number of jobs in the personnel services industry rose again in June, to bring the number of jobs to within 2.3% below a year ago. In January it was 10.1% below the level of a year ago.

The goods-producing sector was up only marginally in June. The number of residential building permits in May was 6.8% above a year ago in the met area heating up the job demand in construction firms engaged in home building. Manufacturing firms also added workers in June but not as many as usual. Still, it was encouraging that the demand was broad-based with only one of the industry groups, industrial machinery, reporting fewer jobs in June than May. Another sign that demand is improving in the manufacturing sector is that the length of the average workweek increased to 40.7 hours in June, the second time in the past three months that the workweek exceeded year ago levels.

Despite growing indications that economic activity is picking up, the local labor market remains very competitive. Job openings listed with the State Job Service Office during the first six months of 1991 are running about 37% behind the number listed during the same time in 1990. Similarly, the Conference Board's Help Wanted Index has shown some increase in recent months, but is still about 20% below a year ago as of May.

By Bruce Steuernagel

Labor Force Estimates

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	June 1991	May 1991	June 1990	June 1991	May 1991	June 1990	June 1991	May 1991	June 1990
Mpls-St. Paul	1,371,937	1,349,118	1,356,150	64,878	72,116	60,460	4.5	5.1	4.3
REGION 11	1,288,730	1,267,076	1,272,716	60,609	66,928	56,354	4.5	5.0	4.2
Anoka	132,540	130,313	130,893	7,199	8,238	6,757	5.2	5.9	4.9
Carver	24,696	24,281	24,389	1,023	1,218	932	4.0	4.8	3.7
Dakota	145,144	142,705	143,340	6,837	7,348	5,698	4.5	4.9	3.8
Hennepin	609,774	599,528	602,197	29,038	31,392	27,154	4.5	5.0	4.3
Ramsey	272,682	268,101	269,294	12,028	13,471	11,624	4.2	4.8	4.1
Scott	29,199	28,708	28,836	1,482	1,710	1,212	4.8	5.6	4.0
Washington	74,695	73,440	73,767	3,002	3,551	2,977	3.9	4.6	3.9
Chisago	14,249	14,009	14,072	807	1,004	931	5.4	6.7	6.2
Isanti	12,065	11,862	11,915	826	1,024	686	6.4	7.9	5.4
Wright	33,000	32,446	32,590	1,884	2,298	1,641	5.4	6.6	4.8
St. Croix, WI	23,894	23,725	24,857	754	862	846	3.1	3.5	3.3
Bloomington	57,166	56,206	56,456	2,608	2,867	2,528	4.4	4.9	4.3
Minneapolis	201,091	197,712	198,593	10,857	11,423	10,478	5.1	5.5	5.0
St. Paul	140,595	138,233	138,848	7,497	8,207	7,150	5.1	5.6	4.9

Twin Cities Nonfarm Wage & Salary Jobs, Hours & Earnings

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT 1/ (thousands)			PERCENT CHANGE FROM		PRODUCTION WORKERS & HOURS & EARNINGS 2/					
						Average Weekly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings	
	June 1991	May 1991	June 1990	May 1991	June 1990	June 1991	June 1990	June 1991	June 1990	June 1991	June 1990
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	1,393.6	1,378.6	1,388.6	1.1	0.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goods Producing	307.9	302.5	317.6	1.8	-3.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mining	0.6	0.5	0.7	10.5	-10.7	662.61	794.44	39.0	47.6	16.99	16.69
Construction	50.7	47.5	54.2	6.7	-6.4	754.80	671.81	40.0	37.7	18.87	17.82
Manufacturing	256.6	254.5	262.8	0.9	-2.3	498.17	476.37	40.7	40.2	12.24	11.85
Durable Goods	150.0	149.1	156.8	0.6	-4.4	515.39	488.84	41.1	40.5	12.54	12.07
Lumber and Furniture	10.0	9.4	10.0	6.3	-0.4	598.16	563.09	41.8	38.7	14.31	14.55
Stone, Clay and Glass	2.9	2.8	3.0	5.2	-2.5	485.50	523.26	39.6	40.5	12.26	12.92
Primary Metals	4.5	4.5	4.7	1.8	-2.7	508.15	456.62	42.1	41.7	12.07	10.95
Fabricated Metals	25.3	25.3	26.2	0.0	-3.5	540.06	513.95	41.8	42.3	12.92	12.15
Industrial Machinery	50.6	50.9	54.2	-0.6	-6.7	549.17	509.39	40.8	40.3	13.46	12.64
Office and Computing	20.8	20.7	22.8	0.3	-8.8	607.38	589.31	40.6	43.3	14.96	13.61
Electronic Equipment	18.1	18.0	18.8	0.4	-4.1	434.48	393.43	41.3	38.8	10.52	10.14
Transportation Equipment	4.9	4.9	5.7	0.4	-15.0	654.17	656.35	41.8	42.4	15.65	15.48
Instruments and Related	29.7	29.4	29.8	0.8	-0.5	454.98	448.78	41.1	41.4	11.07	10.84
Misc. Manufacturing	4.0	4.0	4.3	0.5	-6.9	434.12	463.05	37.2	37.8	11.67	12.25
Nondurable Goods	106.7	105.3	106.0	1.3	0.7	473.20	460.09	40.0	39.8	11.83	11.56
Food & Beverage Products	19.1	18.8	18.7	1.7	2.2	492.47	477.73	42.2	43.0	11.67	11.11
Paper Products	26.7	26.2	26.4	1.9	1.5	504.30	484.81	40.9	40.2	12.33	12.06
Printing and Publishing	37.7	37.4	36.9	0.7	2.3	426.00	443.51	37.5	38.3	11.36	11.58
Chemicals and Petroleum	9.9	9.8	10.1	1.0	-1.8	652.41	606.10	42.2	41.8	15.46	14.50
Rubber and Plastic	11.1	11.0	11.3	1.0	-1.5	449.43	402.58	42.2	39.2	10.65	10.27
Service Producing	1,085.7	1,076.1	1,071.0	0.9	1.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transp. Comm., & Util.	76.5	75.9	77.8	0.7	-1.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	55.1	54.7	56.0	0.7	-1.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trucking & Warehousing	16.7	16.4	17.6	1.9	-4.9	373.10	422.18	28.9	33.4	12.91	12.64
Communication & Utilities	21.4	21.3	21.8	0.7	-1.7	652.05	606.84	40.3	39.0	16.18	15.56
Trade	331.5	326.2	333.4	1.6	-0.6	285.09	271.20	30.2	30.0	9.44	9.04
Wholesale	84.5	83.5	85.2	1.2	-0.8	484.22	457.03	37.8	37.4	12.81	12.22
Retail	247.0	242.7	248.3	1.8	-0.5	224.60	215.17	27.9	27.8	8.05	7.74
Building Materials	10.9	10.9	11.2	0.5	-2.0	390.75	426.66	37.5	40.1	10.42	10.64
General Merchandise	37.7	36.9	39.3	2.2	-4.0	223.03	211.46	27.5	26.7	8.11	7.92
Food Stores	30.8	30.1	30.2	2.5	2.0	271.56	266.41	29.2	29.7	9.30	8.97
Automotive	25.6	25.3	25.2	1.1	1.3	353.77	340.86	37.2	36.3	9.51	9.39
Apparel	13.2	13.0	13.2	1.2	-0.4	128.52	134.94	21.0	21.8	6.12	6.19
Home Furnishings	10.2	10.1	10.7	0.8	-4.6	365.31	317.00	33.7	31.7	10.84	10.00
Eating and Drinking	86.7	84.6	86.9	2.5	-0.2	150.28	132.31	24.2	23.5	6.21	5.63
Fin., Insur., Real Estate	99.0	98.0	97.3	1.0	1.8						
Finance	41.7	41.3	40.7	0.8	2.3						
Insurance	39.5	39.3	38.9	0.4	1.4						
Real Estate	17.9	17.4	17.6	2.9	1.5						
Services	384.6	382.3	371.6	0.6	3.5						
Personal Services	17.9	17.8	17.7	0.8	1.1						
Business Services	82.5	81.2	81.3	1.6	1.5						
Repair Services	17.4	17.2	17.2	0.9	0.9						
Health Services	98.1	97.3	94.3	0.8	4.0						
Nursing Homes	22.8	22.8	22.7	-0.1	0.2						
Hospitals	34.4	34.1	33.4	0.6	2.9						
Legal Services	13.5	13.2	13.0	2.2	3.6						
Private Education	15.8	19.6	15.6	-19.7	1.2						
Government	194.0	193.7	191.0	0.2	1.6						
Federal	21.4	21.2	22.4	0.7	-4.8						
State	54.4	56.1	53.7	-2.9	1.3						
Education	30.5	32.2	29.6	-5.1	2.9						
Local	118.2	116.4	114.8	1.5	3.0						
Education	62.0	63.5	60.2	-2.5	2.9						

Note: Not all industry sub-groups are shown for every major industry category.

1/ Totals may not add because of roundings.

2/ Average earnings data are on a "gross" basis and are derived from reports of payroll for full-time and part-time production or non-supervisory workers. The payroll is reported before deductions of any kind. Bonuses, retroactive pay, tips, payment in kind, and "fringe benefits" are excluded.

Southern Minnesota

Labor Force Estimates

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	June 1991	May 1991	June 1990	June 1991	May 1991	June 1990	June 1991	May 1991	June 1990
REGION 6W	26,973	25,931	24,862	1,025	1,115	921	3.7	4.1	3.6
Big Stone	3,147	3,050	2,876	99	157	121	3.0	4.9	4.0
Chippewa	7,689	7,295	7,236	299	316	266	3.7	4.2	3.5
Lac Qui Parle	4,616	4,451	4,112	141	99	120	3.0	2.2	2.8
Swift	5,225	5,042	4,820	268	320	231	4.9	6.0	4.6
Yellow Med.	6,296	6,093	5,818	218	223	183	3.3	3.5	3.0
REGION 8	68,341	65,928	61,878	2,477	2,519	2,814	3.5	3.7	4.3
Cottonwood	6,418	6,472	5,930	415	370	562	6.1	5.4	8.7
Jackson	6,204	6,002	5,611	308	299	321	4.7	4.7	5.4
Lincoln	3,742	3,557	3,218	142	149	138	3.7	4.0	4.1
Lyon	13,952	13,604	12,637	445	506	436	3.1	3.6	3.3
Murray	5,530	5,312	4,893	156	190	206	2.7	3.5	4.0
Nobles	13,025	12,270	12,005	397	337	409	3.0	2.7	3.3
Pipestone	5,597	5,378	5,221	191	227	298	3.3	4.0	5.4
Redwood	8,382	8,050	7,578	274	301	284	3.2	3.6	3.6
Rock	5,491	5,283	4,785	149	140	160	2.6	2.6	3.2
REGION 9	119,899	115,529	111,640	5,198	6,038	4,182	4.2	5.0	3.6
Blue Earth	29,331	29,312	27,787	1,030	1,131	894	3.4	3.7	3.1
Brown	15,383	14,689	14,223	555	650	551	3.5	4.2	3.7
Faribault	8,730	7,984	7,973	462	595	331	5.0	6.9	4.0
LeSueur	12,424	11,196	11,625	716	983	549	5.4	8.1	4.5
Martin	12,546	12,091	11,831	867	993	534	6.5	7.6	4.3
Nicollet	16,011	16,001	15,168	540	538	494	3.3	3.3	3.2
Sibley	7,787	7,330	6,990	306	374	278	3.8	4.9	3.8
Waseca	10,991	10,589	9,763	392	466	326	3.4	4.2	3.2
Watonwan	6,696	6,337	6,280	330	308	225	4.7	4.6	3.5
REGION 10	237,366	231,772	225,282	9,906	11,492	9,808	4.0	4.7	4.2
Dodge	8,441	8,346	8,182	408	500	351	4.6	5.7	4.1
Fillmore	11,197	10,702	9,910	557	675	491	4.7	5.9	4.7
Freeborn	16,721	16,222	15,401	935	1,100	2,072	5.3	6.4	11.9
Goodhue	22,665	22,284	21,341	825	989	747	3.5	4.2	3.4
Houston	10,197	9,896	9,604	395	502	313	3.7	4.8	3.2
Mower	19,150	18,667	17,679	678	811	748	3.4	4.2	4.1
Olmsted	65,481	64,346	63,656	2,203	2,333	2,036	3.3	3.5	3.1
Rice	29,473	28,521	28,116	1,287	1,548	963	4.2	5.1	3.3
Steele	17,172	16,868	16,233	741	933	580	4.1	5.2	3.4
Wabasha	9,684	9,158	9,006	527	621	426	5.2	6.4	4.5
Winona	27,185	26,762	26,154	1,350	1,480	1,081	4.7	5.2	4.0
Rochester Cty	40,739	40,033	39,604	1,683	1,695	1,469	4.0	4.1	3.6

Rochester MSA Nonfarm Wage & Salary Jobs

Industry	Employment			% Change From	
	June 1991	May 1991	June 1990	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	68,008	67,266	66,994	1.1	1.5
Goods Producing	14,642	14,071	14,777	4.1	-0.9
Construction and Mining	2,386	2,262	2,439	5.5	-2.2
Manufacturing	12,256	11,809	12,338	3.8	-0.7
Durable Goods	10,072	9,912	10,394	1.6	-3.1
Nondurable Goods	2,184	1,897	1,944	15.1	12.3
Service Producing	53,366	53,195	52,217	0.3	2.2
Transp., Comm., & Util.	1,934	1,898	1,891	1.9	2.3
Trade	13,569	13,377	13,520	1.4	0.4
Wholesale	1,665	1,662	1,661	0.2	0.2
Retail	11,904	11,715	11,859	1.6	0.4
Finan., Insur., & Re. Estate	1,811	1,797	1,807	0.8	0.2
Services	29,184	28,990	28,120	0.7	3.8
Health	19,661	19,503	18,931	0.8	3.9
Other Services	9,523	9,487	9,189	0.4	3.6
Government	6,868	7,133	6,879	-3.7	-0.2

Job Expansion And Lower Unemployment Rates Indicate Recovery From Recessionary Pressures

Employment continued to rise in southern Minnesota during June. While the monthly change was seasonal, the increase over June 1990 strongly suggests a real and substantive job increase. While employment was growing, unemployment rates dropped seasonally over the month to hover slightly above or below last June's rates, depending on the region.

In the Rochester MSA employment reached its highest level ever at 65,481, a 1.7% gain over May's level, and 2.9% over June of 1990.

The survey of nonfarm payroll jobs (establishment based) confirms the yearly and monthly rise, although smaller at 1.5% or 1,014 jobs, over the year, and 1.1% over May.

Over the year, the goods producers, construction/mining and manufacturing, had fewer jobs than last June, although the nondurable goods producing component of manufacturing had 12.3% more workers owing to seasonal hiring in a cannery.

Payroll jobs also grew slower than total employment over the month. The fastest job gainer was nondurable goods manufacturing which rose 15.1% and added 287 jobs, most of which were the above mentioned seasonal cannery workers. Gains in other industries were small, including construction/mining's 5.5% rise. Retail trade jobs finally began to pick up after remaining dormant following the drop in February. In June, 189 retail trade jobs were added for a 1.6% increase. Government dropped 3.7% over the month when the school year ended.

By Ron Daws

Central and Northwest Minnesota

Labor Force Estimates

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	JUNE 1991	MAY 1991	JUNE 1990	JUNE 1991	MAY 1991	JUNE 1990	JUNE 1991	MAY 1991	JUNE 1990
REGION 1	44,966	43,379	42,270	3,293	4,099	2,971	6.8	8.6	6.6
Kittson	2,879	2,753	2,483	171	221	185	5.6	7.4	6.9
Marshall	5,056	4,978	4,490	577	689	511	10.2	12.2	10.2
Norman	3,810	3,723	3,584	261	349	215	6.4	8.6	5.7
Pennington	6,832	6,708	6,633	574	691	444	7.8	9.3	6.3
Polk	15,136	14,333	14,246	1,153	1,453	1,111	7.1	9.2	7.2
Red Lake	1,619	1,604	1,474	244	289	231	13.1	15.3	13.5
Roseau	9,634	9,280	9,360	313	407	274	3.1	4.2	2.8
REGION 2	33,738	33,741	31,810	2,403	2,952	2,280	6.6	8.7	6.7
Beltrami	17,578	17,271	16,545	1,099	1,344	961	5.9	7.2	5.5
Clearwater	3,402	3,566	3,396	514	611	444	13.1	14.6	11.6
Hubbard	7,833	7,558	7,462	495	640	620	5.9	7.8	7.7
Lake of Woods	2,431	2,258	2,130	54	93	60	2.2	4.0	2.7
Mahnomen	2,494	2,588	2,277	241	264	195	8.8	9.3	7.9
REGION 4	104,846	102,073	99,254	4,674	5,923	4,629	4.3	5.5	4.5
Becker	14,799	14,220	14,249	949	1,073	868	6.0	7.0	5.7
Clay	25,547	25,637	24,910	1,004	1,292	958	3.8	4.8	3.7
Douglas	16,398	15,970	15,577	681	890	690	4.0	5.3	4.2
Grant	3,356	3,204	2,949	137	178	180	3.9	5.3	5.8
Otter Tail	27,909	26,791	25,758	1,272	1,711	1,262	4.4	6.0	4.7
Pope	5,127	4,994	4,656	266	330	266	4.9	6.2	5.4
Stevens	5,812	5,550	5,389	104	134	143	1.8	2.4	2.6
Traverse	2,349	2,212	2,167	90	107	86	3.7	4.6	3.8
Wilkin	3,549	3,495	3,599	171	208	156	4.6	5.6	4.2
REGION 5	66,616	63,886	61,959	4,276	5,235	4,085	6.0	7.6	6.2
Cass	10,418	9,784	9,339	788	962	753	7.0	9.0	7.5
Crow Wing	24,413	23,294	23,367	1,235	1,556	1,193	4.8	6.3	4.9
Morrison	14,971	14,395	13,917	1,181	1,329	960	7.3	8.5	6.5
Todd	11,685	11,304	10,524	709	919	742	5.7	7.5	6.6
Wadena	5,129	5,109	4,812	363	469	437	6.6	8.4	8.3
REGION 6E	60,131	57,737	55,254	2,939	3,567	2,720	4.7	5.8	4.7
Kandiyohi	22,058	21,520	20,410	833	1,016	720	3.6	4.5	3.4
McLeod	18,549	17,443	17,254	806	1,003	835	4.2	5.4	4.6
Meeker	9,293	8,980	8,630	850	972	604	8.4	9.8	6.5
Renville	10,231	9,794	8,960	450	576	561	4.2	5.6	5.9
REGION 7E	53,269	52,611	51,550	3,657	4,633	3,459	6.4	8.1	6.3
Chisago	14,249	14,009	14,072	807	1,004	931	5.4	6.7	6.2
Isanti	12,065	11,862	11,915	826	1,024	685	6.4	7.9	5.4
Kanabec	5,812	5,686	5,406	562	755	546	8.8	11.7	9.2
Mille Lacs	10,785	10,586	10,417	674	822	521	5.9	7.2	4.8
Pine	10,358	10,468	9,740	788	1,028	775	7.1	8.9	7.4
REGION 7W	132,355	131,735	127,796	7,698	9,153	7,098	5.5	6.5	5.3
Benton	15,669	15,659	15,015	962	1,116	926	5.8	6.7	5.8
Sherburne	19,257	19,244	18,453	1,319	1,672	1,135	6.4	8.0	5.8
Stearns	64,429	64,386	61,738	3,533	4,067	3,396	5.2	5.9	5.2
Wright	33,000	32,446	32,590	1,864	2,298	1,641	5.4	6.6	4.8
St. Cloud MSA	99,356	99,289	95,205	5,814	6,855	5,456	5.5	6.5	5.4

St. Cloud MSA Nonfarm Wage & Salary Jobs

Industry	Employment			% Change From	
	June 1991	May 1991	June 1990	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	79,741	80,554	78,504	-1.0	1.6
Goods Producing	19,242	18,089	19,280	6.4	-0.2
Construction and Mining	3,909	3,286	4,289	19.0	-8.9
Manufacturing	15,333	14,803	14,991	3.6	2.3
Durable Goods	8,964	8,643	8,586	3.7	4.4
Nondurable Goods	6,369	6,160	6,405	3.4	-0.6
Service Producing	60,499	62,465	59,224	-3.1	2.2
Transp., Comm., & Util.	4,193	4,079	3,966	2.8	5.7
Trade	23,617	23,293	23,155	1.4	2.0
Wholesale	3,716	3,691	3,834	0.7	-3.1
Retail	19,901	19,602	19,321	1.5	3.0
Finan., Insur., & Re. Estate	2,547	2,551	2,442	-0.2	4.3
Services	17,762	18,716	17,294	-5.1	2.7
Health	6,284	6,234	5,760	0.8	9.1
Other Services	11,478	12,482	11,534	-8.0	-0.5
Government	12,380	13,826	12,367	-10.5	0.1

While Jobs Continue to Grow, Unemployment Rates Drop To About Last June's Levels

Evidence that the recession is petering out can be seen in June unemployment rates that dropped enough to look similar to last June's, and in employment that topped last month's and last June's in every region.

In the St. Cloud MSA the jobless rate dropped a full percentage point--from 6.5% in May to 5.5% in June. The rate occasionally drops in June, but most often it rises because many students search for jobs when the school year ends. Although employment rose only slightly over May, 99,356 working residents in the MSA is an all-time record--enough jobs to satisfy most job seekers. Last June employment was 4,150 lower (-4.2%).

The estimate of nonfarm payroll jobs (employer based and therefore reflecting the effects if net commuting and multiple job holding) in the St. Cloud MSA paints a less rosy picture than the total employment data does. Jobs increased over the year, but only 1.6% or by 1,237. Job gains were held back by construction/ mining's 8.9% drop (380 jobs) and minor losses in nondurable goods manufacturing, wholesale trade and nonmedical services.

Over the month, rather than rising slightly as total employment suggests, payroll job data shows a 1.0% drop, or 813 fewer positions. The biggest loss since May was the 1,446 government jobs when school let out. Nonmedical services also cut jobs--about eight percent or 1,000 of them. All other industries added modest numbers of jobs over the month except construction/mining which added 623 jobs, nearly one-fifth more.

By Ron Daws

Northeast Minnesota

Unemployment Rates Drop Over The Month Not Shared By Duluth

Region 3's unemployment rate dropped from 8.3% in May to 7.0% in June, but it still remains higher than June 1990's 6.2%.

In Duluth the rate rose from 6.3% in May to 6.4% in June, well above last June's 4.9%. Still, Duluth's unemployment rate for the first six months of 1991 has averaged only one-half a percent over the 5.5% average for the first half of 1990. Even though jobs are being created in Duluth, they rose only one percent over the month and year, slower than in most other parts of the state. This suggests that economic recovery is progressing slower in Duluth than in other state metro areas.

Duluth's nonfarm payroll data, establishment-based and reflecting considerable in-commuting and some multiple job holding, shows even fewer job gains than do the total employment figures which are an estimate of Duluth residents who work. Payroll data shows that jobs increased only 0.5% over the month and dropped slightly over the year.

The job increase since May was due basically to construction/mining (up 8.6%) and health services (up 3.9%) which offset the 3.5% loss in government when the school year ended

The slight drop in Duluth's payroll jobs since last June was caused by the disturbing 5.5% decrease (576 jobs) in retail trade. Consumers still aren't confident that they can buy much more than necessities. Besides retail trade, government and transportation/utilities employment also dropped over the year.

By Ron Daws

Labor Force Estimates

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	June 1991	May 1991	June 1990	June 1991	May 1991	June 1990	June 1991	May 1991	June 1990
REGION 3	143,017	140,095	142,396	10,760	12,747	9,419	7.0	8.3	6.2
Aitkin	5,663	5,653	5,048	514	671	484	8.3	10.6	8.7
Carlton	12,567	12,283	12,458	967	1,210	898	7.1	9.0	6.7
Cook	3,248	2,867	3,031	124	171	145	3.7	5.6	4.6
Itasca	17,599	16,987	17,375	1,765	2,073	1,638	9.1	10.9	8.6
Koochiching	9,425	9,041	11,045	883	1,139	514	8.6	11.2	4.4
Lake	4,911	4,499	4,641	422	498	289	7.9	10.0	5.9
St. Louis	89,604	88,765	88,798	6,085	6,985	5,451	6.4	7.3	5.8
City of Duluth	38,901	38,536	38,551	2,638	2,592	1,995	6.4	6.3	4.9
Balance St. Louis	50,703	50,229	50,247	3,447	4,393	3,456	6.4	8.0	6.4

Duluth & Duluth Superior MSA Nonfarm Wage & Salary Jobs

Industry	DULUTH					DULUTH SUPERIOR				
	Employment			% Change From		Employment			% Change From	
	June 1991	May 1991	June 1990	Month Ago	Year Ago	June 1991	May 1991	June 1990	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	50,189	49,933	50,325	0.5	-0.3	99,194	98,685	99,162	0.5	0.0
Goods Producing	6,247	6,044	6,089	3.4	2.6	18,458	17,870	18,125	3.3	1.8
Mining	Small, combined with construction					5,479	5,419	5,432	1.1	0.9
Construction	1,968	1,812	1,925	8.6	2.2	3,849	3,432	4,057	12.2	-5.1
Manufacturing	4,279	4,232	4,164	1.1	2.8	9,130	9,019	8,636	1.2	5.7
Durable Goods	1,644	1,611	1,598	2.0	2.9	4,805	4,747	4,564	1.2	5.3
Nondurable Goods	2,635	2,621	2,566	0.5	2.7	4,325	4,272	4,072	1.2	6.2
Service Producing	43,942	43,889	44,236	0.1	-0.7	80,736	80,815	81,037	-0.1	-0.4
Transp., Comm., & Util.	3,048	3,008	3,169	1.3	-3.8	5,947	5,851	6,159	1.6	-3.4
Trade	11,728	11,617	12,221	1.0	-4.0	23,884	23,775	25,249	0.5	-5.4
Wholesale	1,887	1,896	1,804	-0.5	4.6	3,903	3,954	3,943	-1.3	-1.0
Retail	9,841	9,721	10,417	1.2	-5.5	19,981	19,821	21,306	0.8	-6.2
Finan., Insur., & Re. Estate	1,992	1,992	1,970	0.0	1.1	3,330	3,315	3,228	0.5	3.2
Services	15,251	14,922	14,712	2.2	3.7	25,498	25,047	24,976	1.8	2.1
Health	6,344	6,106	6,007	3.9	5.6	10,223	9,932	9,798	2.9	4.3
Other Services	8,907	8,816	8,705	1.0	2.3	15,275	15,115	15,178	1.1	0.6
Government	11,923	12,350	12,164	-3.5	-2.0	22,077	22,827	21,425	-3.3	3.0

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Minnesota Labor Market Review

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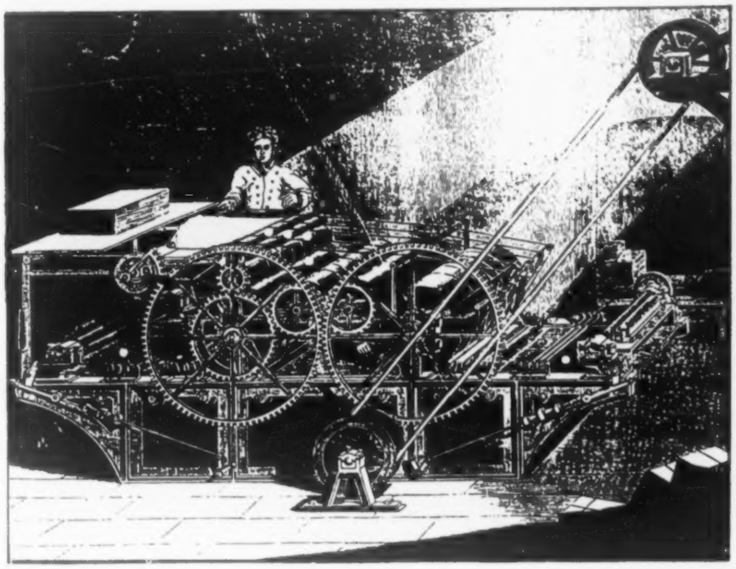
Data Express Lane

If you've ever thought that the data and analysis presented in the "*Review* " takes its sweet time in reaching you, there's a reason. It takes time to get the information analyzed, printed and mailed. But there's a way you can get some of it sooner. Labor force data for the Unites States actually is available the first Friday following the month reported. Minnesota figures are available by the 25th of the month, and smaller area data is available a few days after that.

These numbers are usually picked up and printed in the newspapers, and they are available by calling us at (612) 296-6545. What you won't get over the phone is reams of data or in-depth analysis. The preperation and mailing of this publication consumes the time between the data's arrival and getting it to you in finished form. But at least now you know how to get a jump on the process.



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Minnesota Labor Market Review

September, 1991

In This Issue:

Unlike nationally, Minnesota's unemployment rates drop below those of a year ago as the state's employment level continues to rise (Pages 1-10).

While several studies shed light on the role education and business must play in preparing workers, other research delves into labor market trends (Page 11).

Despite Minnesota's comparative economic well-being during the last decade, several regions within the state struggle to create or even maintain jobs (Page 12).

Jobs that can protect the planet generally pay well, require special training, are challenging and rewarding---but job opportunities are uncertain (Page 17).

Minnesota

Number of Jobs Rises for Fourth Straight Month

Job growth in Minnesota through mid-summer provides strong evidence that economic recovery in the state continues. All of the jobs lost during last winter's recession have been regained. Consequently, the unemployment rate has stopped rising. In the last four months this measure of economic well-being has fluctuated being above and below its year-ago level. At 4.4% in July, it is again lower than it was a year ago.

Most facets of the economy are simultaneously expanding. All but one of the major industry groups in the private sector have grown for at least three of the past four months. The lone exception is construction, which continues to trend downward. This industry currently has no more jobs than it did in 1986, despite a rebound this spring in home sales and building permits. The office and public sides of the business are weak. Job gains in manufacturing, services and a surprisingly renewed surge in trade more than offset flaccid construction activity.

Adding it all up, Minnesota now has 11,000 more jobs than it did last year this time. That is a growth rate of less than one percent, placing Minnesota well ahead of the 1.6% U.S. decline over the past year, but ranking it only 20th among states. A lot of small states have done well lately. In general, our neighbors have grown at virtually the same rate as Minnesota, and have also seen their unemployment rates hovering at year-ago levels. South Dakota has been the exception, adding jobs at a 2.5% clip and seeing a consistent drop in its unemployment rate. To find the top performers, you have to go farther south and west. Nebraska, at one-third the size of Minnesota, has added three times the number of jobs in the past year. Idaho and Utah have also been unfazed by the recession that is decimating employment along the nation's Eastern Seaboard.

By Don Hilber

Current Labor Force Series

	Minnesota (In Thousands)			% Change From		United States (In Thousands)			% Change From	
	Jul 91	Jun 91	Jul 90	Jun 91	Jul 90	Jul 91	Jun 91	Jul 90	Jun 91	Jul 90
Labor Force	2502.0	2498.7	2443.1	0.1	2.4	127,327	127,054	126,899	0.2	0.3
Employment	2392.8	2379.8	2322.4	0.6	3.0	118,751	118,280	119,954	0.4	-1.0
Unemployment	109.1	118.9	120.6	-8.2	-8.5	8,576	8,774	6,945	-2.3	23.5
Actual Unemp. Rate	4.4	4.8	4.9	-	-	6.7	6.9	5.5	-	-
Seasonally Adj. Rate	-	-	-	-	-	7.0	6.9	5.3	-	-

Minnesota Nonfarm Wage & Salary Jobs, Hours & Earnings

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT 1/ (thousands)			PERCENT CHANGE FROM		PRODUCTION WORKERS & HOURS & EARNINGS 2/					
						Average Weekly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings	
	July 1991	June 1991	July 1990	June 1991	July 1990	July 1991	July 1990	July 1991	July 1990	July 1991	July 1990
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	2,144.7	2,171.0	2,133.6	-1.2	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goods Producing	493.7	489.5	504.3	0.8	-2.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mining	9.0	9.0	9.0	-0.4	0.1	659.82	629.72	43.9	43.7	15.03	14.41
Metal Mining	6.5	6.6	6.7	-2.2	-2.7	685.68	644.34	42.3	42.7	16.21	15.09
Construction	85.4	83.1	91.0	2.7	-6.1	696.35	666.25	41.4	40.6	16.82	16.41
Manufacturing	399.3	397.4	404.4	0.5	-1.2	459.29	448.32	39.8	40.1	11.54	11.18
Durable Goods	223.9	224.1	232.1	-0.1	-3.5	478.34	460.23	40.4	40.3	11.84	11.42
Lumber and Furniture	23.8	23.6	23.6	1.0	1.0	500.13	495.62	38.8	38.6	12.89	12.84
Stone, Clay and Glass	9.1	8.9	9.5	1.3	-4.3	512.90	510.51	42.6	43.3	12.04	11.79
Primary Metals	6.1	6.2	6.4	-0.5	-4.2	482.36	436.36	40.5	39.1	11.91	11.16
Fabricated Metals	33.5	33.6	34.7	-0.3	-3.4	508.82	481.22	41.3	41.7	12.32	11.54
Industrial Machinery	72.6	73.3	76.9	-1.0	-5.6	519.47	480.40	40.3	40.0	12.89	12.01
Office and Computing	32.4	32.6	34.1	-0.7	-5.1	552.50	517.72	42.5	43.0	13.00	12.04
Electronic Equipment	29.5	29.5	30.4	0.1	-2.8	392.89	395.04	41.4	40.6	9.49	9.73
Transportation Equipment	10.5	10.6	11.6	-0.9	-8.8	474.08	484.79	38.7	41.4	12.25	11.71
Instruments and Related	32.9	32.5	32.8	1.2	0.2	444.40	428.16	40.4	40.7	11.00	10.52
Misc. Manufacturing	5.8	5.9	6.2	-0.7	-6.6	370.85	398.89	36.9	36.9	10.05	10.81
Nondurable Goods	175.5	173.3	172.3	1.2	1.8	436.75	433.02	39.1	39.8	11.17	10.88
Food & Beverage Products	54.4	52.4	51.4	3.8	5.8	387.48	390.05	39.1	40.8	9.91	9.56
Textiles & Apparel	4.9	4.9	4.9	-1.1	-0.8	291.51	280.90	35.9	33.6	8.12	8.36
Paper Products	35.3	35.4	34.7	-0.3	1.7	569.50	554.55	42.5	42.3	13.40	13.11
Printing and Publishing	52.3	52.4	52.4	-0.2	-0.3	411.32	430.90	36.4	38.2	11.30	11.28
Chemicals and Petroleum	11.6	11.3	11.9	1.9	-3.0	585.48	535.87	40.8	41.0	14.35	13.07
Rubber, Plastic & Leather	17.1	16.9	17.0	1.2	0.5	412.70	371.71	40.5	38.4	10.19	9.68
Service Producing	1,651.0	1,681.5	1,629.3	-1.8	1.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transp., Comm., & Util.	107.6	109.4	108.1	-1.7	-0.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	72.9	74.8	73.0	-2.5	-0.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trucking & Warehousing	27.8	27.7	28.1	0.6	-0.9	384.20	437.35	31.7	35.1	12.12	12.46
Communication & Utilities	34.7	34.6	35.1	0.2	-1.0	648.76	636.01	39.2	39.9	16.55	15.94
Trade	524.1	524.6	524.0	-0.1	0.0	252.78	242.91	29.6	30.1	8.54	8.07
Wholesale	128.8	127.5	128.3	1.0	0.4	427.89	416.59	37.6	37.7	11.38	11.05
Retail	395.3	397.0	395.8	-0.4	-0.1	200.74	192.51	27.2	27.9	7.38	6.90
Building Materials	18.6	18.8	18.8	-1.4	-1.1	331.78	345.71	38.4	37.7	8.64	9.17
General Merchandise	53.6	53.6	55.4	0.0	-3.4	200.56	186.12	26.6	26.4	7.54	7.05
Food Stores	57.1	56.3	55.4	0.3	3.0	227.86	202.77	28.2	28.6	8.08	7.09
Automotive	44.0	44.1	44.0	-0.2	-0.1	301.89	300.46	34.7	35.6	8.70	8.44
Apparel	19.8	19.6	19.9	0.6	-0.5	130.42	131.57	21.7	22.3	6.01	5.90
Home Furnishings	14.9	15.0	15.3	-0.9	-2.8	284.23	282.00	31.9	31.9	8.91	8.84
Eating and Drinking	136.7	138.0	136.8	-0.9	-0.1	132.34	126.64	23.3	24.4	5.68	5.19
Fin., Insur., Real Estate	127.6	127.2	125.5	0.4	1.7						
Finance	58.2	57.7	56.5	1.0	3.0						
Insurance	47.3	47.4	47.1	-0.2	0.4						
Real Estate	22.2	22.2	21.9	0.0	1.0						
Services	574.4	572.8	556.2	0.3	3.3						
Personal Services	24.7	25.3	24.4	-2.2	1.2						
Business Services	96.0	95.7	95.3	0.3	0.7						
Repair Services	23.6	23.7	23.4	-0.3	1.0						
Health Services	175.4	173.4	168.7	1.1	4.0						
Nursing Homes	44.5	44.1	43.9	0.8	1.3						
Hospitals	58.7	58.1	56.6	0.9	3.6						
Legal Services	16.5	16.5	16.0	0.5	3.3						
Private Education	25.3	26.6	24.7	-5.0	2.4						
Government	317.2	347.5	315.5	-8.7	0.5						
Federal	34.5	34.4	36.8	0.3	-6.1						
State	72.6	79.4	73.2	-8.6	-0.8						
Education	34.9	41.7	35.4	-16.2	-1.3						
Local	210.0	233.6	205.5	-10.1	2.2						
Education	95.6	121.3	93.4	-21.2	2.4						

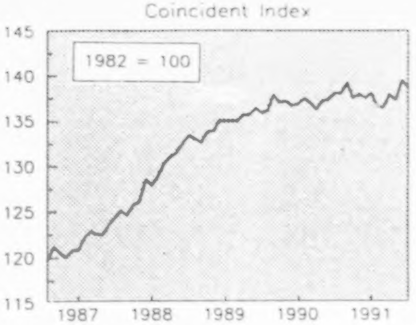
Note: Not all industry sub-groups are shown for every major industry category.

1/ Totals may not add because of rounding.

2/ Average earnings data are on a "gross" basis and are derived from reports of payroll for full-time and part-time production or non-supervisory workers. The payroll is reported before deductions of any kind. Bonuses, retroactive pay, tips, payment in kind, and "fringe benefits" are excluded.

Economic Indicators

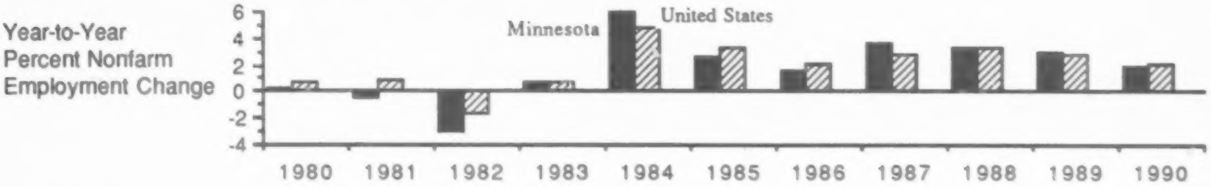
Minnesota's **coincident index** fell in July after rising in each of the previous months. A single-month dip is little reason for concern, however. In all past economic recovery years--1971, 1975 and 1983--it paused for a month before resuming its upward trek. This index combines and tracks three components of the economy: wage & salary jobs, retail sales and manufacturing hours. More detail is published monthly in *Minnesota Economic Indicators*, available by calling (612) 296-6545.



YR	MONTH	COINCIDENT INDEX
1990	JUL	137.9
	AUG	137.9
	SEP	139.0
	OCT	137.4
	NOV	137.8
	DEC	137.4
1991	JAN	137.9
	FEB	136.4
	MAR	136.3
	APR	137.7
	MAY	137.2
	JUN	139.3
	JUL	138.5

% Change from	
Month	-0.6%
Year	0.4%

Historical Labor Force and Payroll Job Series



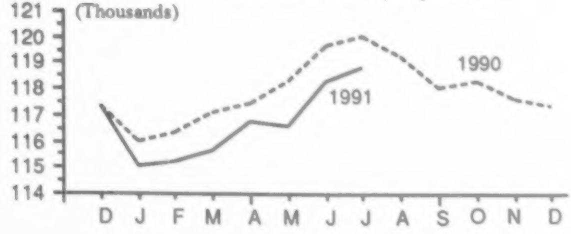
Historical Labor Force and Nonfarm Payroll Series

	(In Thousands)	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Mn	Labor Force	2110.0	2154.0	2167.0	2176.0	2227.0	2233.0	2230.0	2259.0	2327.0	2343.0	2404.3
	Employment	1985.0	2035.0	1998.0	1998.0	2086.0	2091.0	2111.0	2137.0	2233.0	2241,0	2287.9
	Nonfarm Payroll*	1770.0	1761.3	1707.3	1718.2	1819.8	1865.4	1893.9	1962.5	2028.0	2086.8	2126.4
	Unemployment	125.0	119.0	170.0	178.0	1451.0	133.0	119.0	122.0	94.0	102.0	116.4
	Unemployment Rate	5.9	5.5	7.8	8.2	6.3	6.0	5.3	5.4	4.0	4.4	4.8
U.S.	Labor Force	106940	108670	110205	111550	113544	115461	117835	119865	121669	123869	124787
	Employment	99303	100397	99526	100834	105005	107150	109598	112440	114968	117342	117914
	Nonfarm Payroll*	90406	91156	89566	90200	94496	97519	99525	102200	105536	108413	110330
	Unemployment	7637	8273	10678	10717	8539	8312	8237	7425	6700	6528	6874
	Unemployment Rate	7.1	7.6	9.7	9.6	7.5	7.2	7.0	6.2	5.5	5.3	5.5

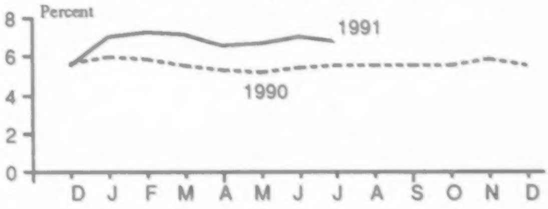
* Total employment is an estimate of the number of working Minnesotans; nonfarm payroll jobs are establishment based and reflect multiple job holding..

Total Employment & Unemployment Rates, 1990 & 1991

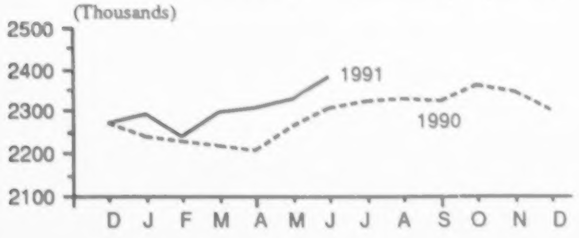
U.S. Total Employment



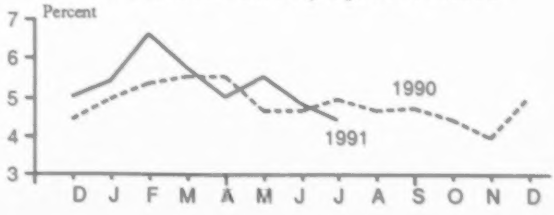
U.S. Unemployment Rates



Minnasota Total Employment

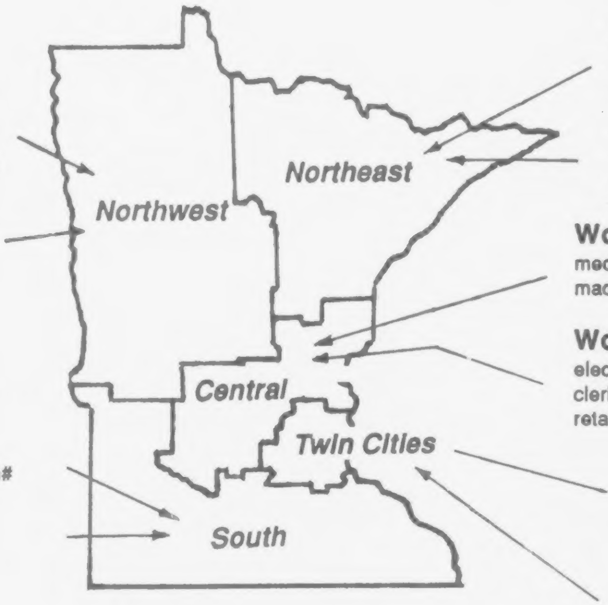


Minnesota Unemployment Rates



The Job Market - Regional Worker Job Shortages and Surplusses

A **worker shortage** exists when an occupation is difficult to fill or there are few qualified applicants. A **worker surplus** exists when there is a sizable excess of qualified applicants. A # after a job indicates that the shortage has persisted for at least two of the last three quarters.



Worker Shortage
food service workers#,
medical (RN, LPN, aides)#,
truck drivers (over the road)

Worker Surplus
construction laborers#,
clerical (inexperienced)#

Worker Shortage
medical (RN, LPN, aides)#,
food service worker

Worker Surplus
clerical (inexperienced)#,
construction laborers#,
general laborers#

Worker Shortage
medical (RN, LPN, aides)#,
machinist (CNC)

Worker Surplus
electronic assembler,
clerical (inexperienced)#,
retail sales clerks

Worker Shortage
food service workers#,
medical (RN, LPN, aides)#
truck drivers (over the road)#

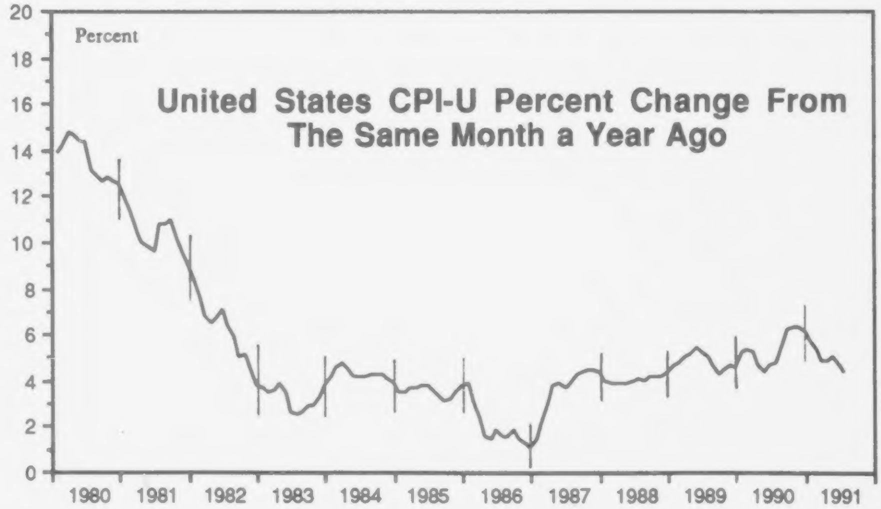
Worker Surplus
clerical (inexperienced)#,
production laborers#

Worker Shortage
food service workers#,
medical (RN, LPN, aides)#,
clerical (experienced

Worker Surplus
electronics technicians#,
electronic assemblers#,
engineers#

Consumer Price Indexes (CPI-U)

CPI-U % Change From a Year Ago	U.S.	Twin Cities
1990		
Aug	5.6	
Sep	6.2	2nd
Oct	6.3	Half
Nov	6.3	Av.
Dec	6.1	3.8
A.A.	5.4	4.1
1991		
Jan	5.7	
Feb	5.3	1st
Mar	4.9	Half
Apr	4.9	Av.
May	5.0	3.1
Jun	4.7	
Jul	4.4	
Aug	3.8	



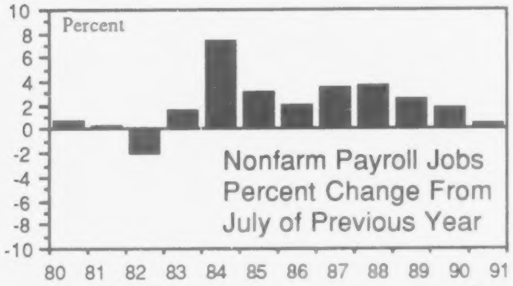
United States CPI-U Percent Change From The Same Month a Year Ago

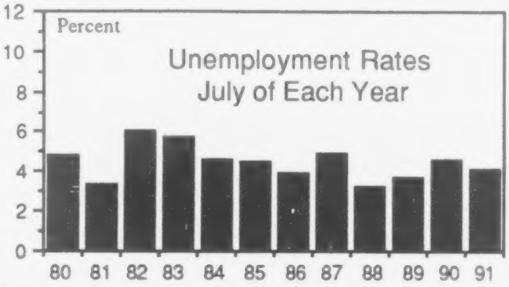
Twin Cities CPI data, which is available only for the first and second half of each year, is considered to be less reliable than the series for the U.S. For gauging state price changes the US CPI is best. Both the U.S and Twin Cities indexes (CPI-W and CPI-U) are available by calling (612) 296-6545.

Areas of the State

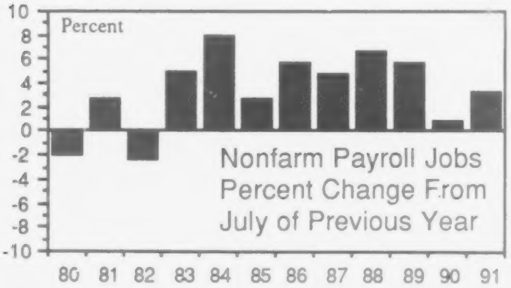
Nonfarm Jobs & Unemployment Rates for MN Metro Areas

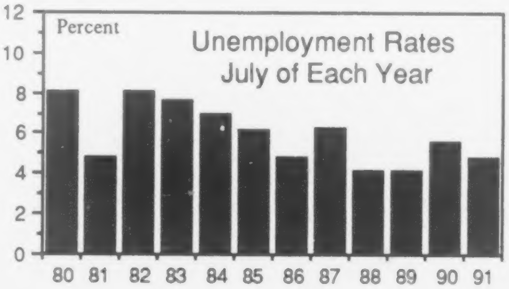
Minneapolis-St. Paul MSA



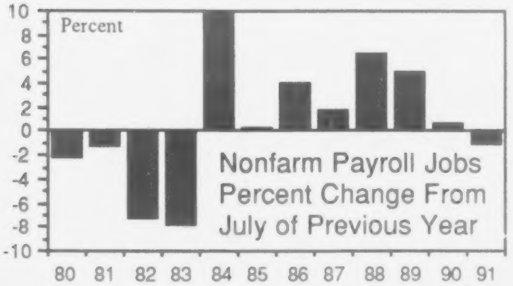


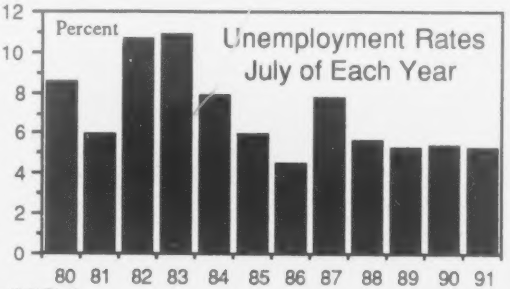
St. Cloud MSA



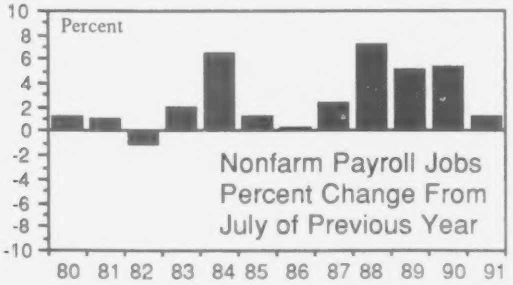


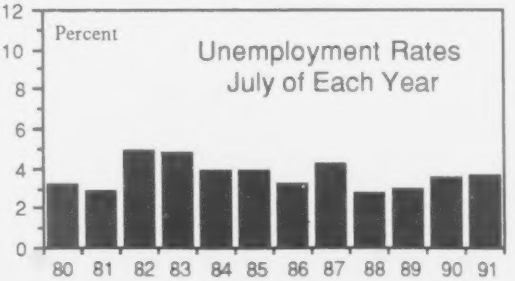
Duluth City





Rochester MSA





Minneapolis-St. Paul MSA

Met Area Unemployment Rate Continues Downward Trend

The unemployment rate for the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area dropped in July to 4.1%, a decrease of 0.4 of a percentage point from the June figure. It was the second consecutive monthly decrease and the fourth time in the past five months that the metro area unemployment rate has dropped.

The magnitude of this change nearly matched the 10-year average June to July change of 0.5 percentage point. This indicates that most of the improvement is probably due to seasonal factors. Nevertheless, the string of monthly declines in the rate is definitely a positive sign that the recession is over.

Another positive sign with regard to labor market conditions in the Twin Cities, as well as Minnesota in general, is that the declining unemployment rate has been caused by increased employment rather than a shrinking labor force as has recently been the case nationally.

During the first seven months of 1991, the unemployment rate declined in the U.S. and metro area, but the nation's labor force has grown by only an average of 0.4% over the year while the Twin Cities labor force has expanded by an average of 1.7%. Nationally, the number of employed people has decreased by an average of 1.0%, and the number of jobs on establishment payrolls is down by 0.9%. In the Twin City metro area, the number of employed residents is up by 1.3% and the number of wage and salary jobs is also up, although just barely (0.1%), compared to last year.

The July survey of firms showed improvement in the local job market for the fourth consecutive month. Again this month there was strength in the service sector, particularly health services. Trade industries showed only a modest increase in actual terms. Nevertheless, this was a turn-around from past history which has seen the number of trade industry jobs drop by an average of 0.6% between June and July.

July data suggested very little change in the goods producing sector. Construction employment increased less than usual while manufacturing was basically unchanged. Both of these sectors may be rather slow growing compared to previous economic recoveries. Because of productivity improvements and the use of temporary employees, manufacturers can produce more with fewer workers than in the early 1980s. The construction industry has its own cycle. At present, several major projects are nearing completion and there is a surplus of office space. New residential construction has shown some rejuvination, but is below levels of several years ago.

In summary, while the demand for labor has improved in recent months, the local labor market remains very competitive. The labor force grows strongly, perhaps as people move into the area from parts of the U.S. harder hit by the recession. Indicators of job demand, such as the Conference Board Help Wanted Index and Job Service openings received are showing improvement, but are still running at levels 25-33% below last year and at the lowest levels since 1983. This indicates that the supply of labor is readily available and employers are not needing to advertise for help to a significant degree.

By Bruce Steuernagel

LABOR FORCE DATA

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	July 1991	June 1991	July 1990	July 1991	June 1991	July 1990	July 1991	June 1991	July 1990
Mpls-St. Paul	1,388,829	1,371,661	1,374,973	59,630	64,876	66,478	4.1	4.5	4.6
REGION 11	1,304,152	1,288,549	1,290,515	55,828	60,582	62,438	4.1	4.5	4.6
Anoka	134,126	132,521	132,723	6,495	7,192	7,026	4.6	5.1	5.0
Carver	24,992	24,693	24,730	953	1,024	1.100	3.7	4.0	4.3
Dakota	146,881	145,123	145,345	6.216	6,843	6,432	4.1	4.5	4.2
Hennepin	617,071	609,688	610,619	27,035	29,010	30,441	4.2	4.5	4.7
Ramsey	275,945	272,644	273,060	11,074	12,025	12,996	3.9	4.2	4.5
Scott	29,548	29,195	29,239	1,262	1,488	1,286	4.1	4.8	4.2
Washington	75,589	74,685	74,799	2,793	3,000	3,157	3.6	3.9	4.0
Chisago	14,419	14,247	14,269	665	808	951	4.4	5.4	6.2
Isanti	12,209	12,063	12,082	688	824	701	5.3	6.4	5.5
Wright	33,395	32,995	33,046	1,768	1,879	1.748	5.0	5.4	5.0
St. Croix, WI	24,655	23,807	25,062	680	783	641	2.7	3.2	2.5
Bloomington	57,850	57,158	57,246	2,446	2,604	2,843	4.1	4.4	4.7
Minneapolis	203,498	201,063	201,370	10,265	10,846	11,627	4.8	5.1	5.5
St. Paul	142.277	140,575	140,790	7,036	7,495	8,176	4.7	5.1	5.5

Twin Cities Nonfarm Wage & Salary Jobs, Hours & Earnings

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT 1/ (thousands)			PERCENT CHANGE FROM		PRODUCTION WORKERS & HOURS & EARNINGS 2/					
						Average Weekly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings	
	July 1991	June 1991	July 1990	June 1991	July 1990	July 1991	July 1990	July 1991	July 1990	July 1991	July 1990
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	1,379.9	1,393.1	1,374.2	-0.9	0.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goods Producing	308.9	307.5	318.2	0.4	-2.9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mining	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.0	-11.5	681.30	763.65	40.1	45.7	16.99	16.71
Construction	51.9	50.9	55.2	1.9	-5.9	749.20	699.66	40.0	39.0	18.73	17.94
Manufacturing	256.4	256.0	262.3	0.1	-2.3	484.34	470.44	39.7	39.8	12.20	11.82
Durable Goods	149.4	149.5	156.1	0.0	-4.3	500.85	481.19	40.1	39.9	12.49	12.06
Lumber and Furniture	10.0	9.9	10.0	0.7	-0.3	531.74	554.84	37.9	38.8	14.03	14.30
Stone, Clay and Glass	2.9	2.9	3.1	-0.2	-5.8	473.58	543.82	38.1	41.8	12.43	13.01
Primary Metals	4.5	4.5	4.6	-0.7	-2.7	478.78	435.37	40.2	40.2	11.91	10.83
Fabricated Metals	25.2	25.2	26.0	-0.3	-3.3	531.12	493.27	41.3	40.8	12.86	12.09
Industrial Machinery	50.3	50.8	53.8	-0.8	-6.3	533.60	506.18	40.0	39.7	13.34	12.75
Office and Computing	20.7	20.8	22.4	-0.5	-7.6	602.57	575.74	39.8	41.6	15.14	13.84
Electronic Equipment	18.1	18.0	18.9	0.4	-4.5	419.99	387.16	40.5	38.6	10.37	10.03
Transportation Equipment	4.8	4.9	5.8	-0.7	-16.2	669.56	607.55	41.9	39.4	15.98	15.42
Instruments and Related	29.7	29.4	29.7	1.3	0.2	460.89	453.06	40.5	41.3	11.38	10.97
Misc. Manufacturing	3.9	3.9	4.3	-0.5	-8.6	415.21	446.27	36.2	36.7	11.47	12.16
Nondurable Goods	106.9	106.5	106.2	0.4	0.7	464.92	456.95	39.3	39.7	11.83	11.51
Food & Beverage Products	19.4	19.0	18.6	2.1	4.0	467.78	481.77	40.5	42.9	11.55	11.23
Paper Products	26.6	26.7	26.4	-0.4	0.8	505.53	491.18	41.0	41.0	12.33	11.98
Printing and Publishing	37.6	37.6	37.3	-0.2	0.8	425.41	437.37	36.8	37.9	11.56	11.54
Chemicals and Petroleum	10.1	9.9	10.1	1.6	-0.6	613.76	577.53	40.7	40.5	15.08	14.26
Rubber and Plastic	11.2	11.1	11.1	0.4	0.3	441.63	396.24	41.9	39.0	10.54	10.16
Service Producing	1,071.1	1,085.6	1,056.0	-1.3	1.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transp. Comm., & Util.	75.5	76.4	76.6	-1.2	-1.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	54.0	55.0	54.8	-1.9	-1.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trucking & Warehousing	17.0	16.8	17.8	1.1	-4.6	365.40	425.43	28.0	32.7	13.05	13.01
Communication & Utilities	21.5	21.4	21.8	0.5	-1.5	640.30	632.40	39.5	40.0	16.21	15.81
Trade	332.1	331.7	331.7	0.1	0.1	284.10	275.73	30.0	30.2	9.47	9.13
Wholesale	85.9	84.5	85.0	1.6	1.1	479.25	466.93	37.5	37.9	12.78	12.32
Retail	246.2	247.1	246.7	-0.4	-0.2	223.82	216.84	27.7	27.8	8.08	7.80
Building Materials	10.8	11.0	10.9	-1.8	-0.4	403.13	418.73	38.8	38.7	10.39	10.82
General Merchandise	37.8	37.7	39.2	0.3	-3.5	217.01	204.07	26.4	26.4	8.22	7.73
Food Stores	31.1	30.8	30.1	0.9	3.3	281.74	273.56	30.1	30.6	9.36	8.94
Automotive	25.7	25.6	25.3	0.4	1.3	351.00	332.15	37.5	35.6	9.36	9.33
Apparel	13.2	13.2	13.2	0.4	-0.1	126.84	129.68	21.0	21.4	6.04	6.06
Home Furnishings	10.1	10.2	10.6	-1.0	-4.9	327.29	347.32	31.2	33.3	10.49	10.43
Eating and Drinking	85.7	86.7	86.1	-1.1	-0.4	147.56	141.37	23.8	23.8	6.20	5.94
Fin., Insur., Real Estate	99.0	99.2	97.7	-0.2	1.3						
Finance	42.1	41.7	40.9	1.1	3.1						
Insurance	38.9	39.5	39.2	-1.7	-0.8						
Real Estate	18.0	18.0	17.7	0.0	1.8						
Services	385.4	384.2	372.3	0.3	3.5						
Personal Services	17.4	17.8	17.4	-2.4	0.0						
Business Services	82.4	82.2	81.8	0.3	0.7						
Repair Services	17.3	17.3	17.3	-0.3	0.0						
Health Services	99.3	98.2	95.2	1.1	4.3						
Nursing Homes	23.2	22.8	22.9	1.4	1.3						
Hospitals	34.6	34.4	33.7	0.6	2.7						
Legal Services	13.7	13.6	13.0	0.4	5.3						
Private Education	15.2	15.8	15.0	-3.9	1.6						
Government	179.1	194.1	177.7	-7.7	0.8						
Federal	21.4	21.4	22.8	0.1	-6.2						
State	48.6	54.5	48.9	-10.8	-0.7						
Education	24.9	30.6	25.0	-18.5	-0.3						
Local	109.1	118.2	106.0	-7.7	2.9						
Education	51.6	61.6	50.4	-16.2	2.4						

Note: Not all industry sub-groups are shown for every major industry category.

1/ Totals may not add because of roundings.

2/ Average earnings data are on a "gross" basis and are derived from reports of payroll for full-time and part-time production or non-supervisory workers. The payroll is reported before deductions of any kind. Bonuses, retroactive pay, tips, payment in kind, and "fringe benefits" are excluded.

Southern Minnesota

LABOR FORCE DATA

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	July 1991	June 1991	July 1990	July 1991	June 1991	July 1990	July 1991	June 1991	July 1990
REGION 6W	26,931	26,978	24,235	909	1,022	963	3.3	3.7	3.8
Big Stone	3,188	3,148	2,875	94	99	108	2.9	3.0	3.6
Chippewa	7,900	7,690	6,787	286	299	294	3.5	3.7	4.2
Lac Qui Parle	4,590	4,617	4,084	115	140	142	2.4	2.9	3.4
Swift	5,036	5,226	4,757	228	267	229	4.3	4.9	4.6
Yellow Med.	6,217	6,297	5,732	186	217	190	2.9	3.3	3.2
REGION 8	67,234	68,356	60,853	2,290	2,437	2,816	3.3	3.4	4.4
Cottonwood	6,139	6,419	5,854	435	378	447	6.6	5.6	7.1
Jackson	6,238	6,205	5,460	289	307	335	4.4	4.7	5.8
Lincoln	3,671	3,743	3,151	120	142	132	3.2	3.7	4.0
Lyon	13,936	13,955	12,446	412	445	455	2.9	3.1	3.5
Murray	5,605	5,531	4,921	190	155	231	3.3	2.7	4.5
Nobles	12,733	13,028	11,769	356	396	401	2.7	2.9	3.3
Pipestone	5,321	5,599	5,001	159	191	384	2.9	3.3	7.1
Redwood	8,193	8,384	7,450	214	274	276	2.5	3.2	3.6
Rock	5,398	5,492	4,801	115	149	155	2.1	2.6	3.1
REGION 9	119,070	119,927	111,793	4,633	5,202	4,521	3.7	4.2	3.9
Blue Earth	28,903	29,337	27,875	858	1,026	927	2.9	3.4	3.2
Brown	15,842	15,387	14,355	552	555	578	3.4	3.5	3.9
Faribault	8,765	8,732	7,919	381	461	326	4.2	5.0	4.0
LeSueur	12,012	12,427	11,435	646	719	617	5.1	5.5	5.1
Martin	12,498	12,549	12,137	723	867	509	5.5	6.5	4.0
Nicollet	15,778	16,015	15,217	490	548	541	3.0	3.3	3.4
Sibley	7,695	7,789	6,857	264	306	337	3.3	3.8	4.7
Waseca	11,099	10,994	9,922	398	391	434	3.5	3.4	4.2
Watonwan	6,478	6,697	6,076	321	329	252	4.7	4.7	4.0
REGION 10	236,114	237,468	225,110	9,669	9,920	10,867	3.9	4.0	4.6
Dodge	8,245	8,442	8,904	357	408	455	4.2	4.6	4.9
Fillmore	11,037	11,199	9,443	509	556	488	4.4	4.7	4.9
Freeborn	16,277	16,724	14,994	833	938	2,162	4.9	5.3	12.6
Goodhue	22,911	22,670	21,527	827	826	913	3.5	3.5	4.1
Houston	10,067	10,199	9,423	367	406	332	3.5	3.8	3.4
Mower	18,831	19,154	17,765	624	677	753	3.2	3.4	4.1
Olmsted	66,662	65,548	64,876	2,491	2,204	2,341	3.6	3.3	3.5
Rice	29,314	29,479	27,835	1,216	1,287	1,044	4.0	4.2	3.6
Steele	16,888	17,176	16,398	663	740	634	3.8	4.1	3.7
Wabasha	9,605	9,686	8,678	470	528	429	4.7	5.2	4.7
Winona	26,277	27,191	25,267	1,312	1,350	1,316	4.8	4.7	5.0
Rochester Cty	41,474	40,781	40,363	1,910	1,683	1,726	4.4	4.0	4.1

ROCHESTER MSA NONFARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT

Industry	Employment			% Change From	
	July 1991	June 1991	July 1990	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	67,767	68,051	66,994	-0.4	1.2
Goods Producing	14,721	14,645	15,040	0.5	-2.1
Construction and Mining	2,458	2,417	2,498	1.7	-1.6
Manufacturing	12,263	12,228	12,542	0.3	-2.2
Durable Goods	10,001	10,072	10,421	-0.7	-4.0
Nondurable Goods	2,262	2,156	2,121	4.9	6.6
Service Producing	53,046	53,406	51,954	-0.7	2.1
Transp., Comm., & Util.	1,926	1,936	1,921	-0.5	0.3
Trade	13,594	13,599	13,700	0.0	-0.8
Wholesale	1,659	1,665	1,634	-0.4	1.5
Retail	11,935	11,934	12,066	0.0	-1.1
Finan., Insur., & Re. Estate	1,797	1,811	1,814	-0.8	-0.9
Services	29,754	29,177	28,642	2.0	3.9
Health	20,315	19,661	19,562	3.3	3.8
Other Services	9,439	9,516	9,080	-0.8	4.0
Government	5,975	6,883	5,877	-13.2	1.7

Southern Minnesota's Falling Unemployment Rates Not Shared By The Rochester MSA

While unemployment rates fell in every region of Southern Minnesota over the month and year, they rose slightly in the Rochester MSA, from 3.5% in July 1990 and 3.3% in June, to 3.6% this July. Unless it is a blip caused by sampling error, except for February when the MSA's rate was 3.7%, it was the highest rate of the year. Before any alarms sound, however, it should be mentioned that unlike most areas of the state, where unemployment rates dip in the summer, the MSA's rates commonly are near their highest. Also, the Rochester MSA unemployment rate is one of the lowest in the state.

As if to substantiate the MSA's health, the number of jobs rose to an all-time high at 66,662 in July, 1,115 more than in June, and 1,786 more than in July 1990. Although employment dropped slightly over the month in all regions, it was substantially above last July's levels.

Except for the closing of school which was largely responsible for the 13.2% cut in government workers, there were few industry employment shifts in the MSA over the month. Nondurable goods producers grew about 5%, but it netted only 106 new jobs.

Over the year, nonfarm payroll jobs (an establishment-based estimate) rose a modest 1.2% in the MSA. Except for the above mentioned surge in nondurable goods manufacturing jobs, all other goods producing industries lost jobs.

The industry that bore the brunt of the job creating chore was services -- both medical and other services. Combined they added 1,112 jobs to net the MSA its 773 additional nonfarm payroll jobs over the year.

By Ron Daws

Central and Northwest Minnesota

Labor Force Data

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	July 1991	June 1991	July 1990	July 1991	June 1991	July 1990	July 1991	June 1991	July 1990
REGION 1	44,956	44,975	41,586	3,027	3,297	3,321	6.3	6.8	7.4
Kittson	2,783	2,880	2,387	165	170	211	5.6	5.6	8.1
Marshall	5,115	5,057	4,511	531	577	565	9.4	10.2	11.1
Norman	3,966	3,810	3,613	233	261	246	5.5	6.4	6.4
Pennington	6,799	6,833	6,513	487	575	460	6.7	7.8	6.6
Polk	15,152	15,140	13,911	1,086	1,155	1,293	6.7	7.1	8.5
Red Lake	1,594	1,619	1,412	228	246	276	12.5	13.2	16.4
Roseau	9,547	9,636	9,239	297	313	270	3.0	3.1	2.8
REGION 2	32,639	33,745	30,396	2,056	2,405	2,365	5.9	6.7	7.1
Beltrami	16,645	17,582	15,424	936	1,100	1,005	5.3	5.9	5.9
Clearwater	3,446	3,403	3,271	432	513	423	11.1	13.1	11.5
Hubbard	7,717	7,834	7,531	443	498	630	5.4	6.0	7.7
Lake of Woods	2,417	2,431	2,054	47	53	91	1.9	2.1	4.2
Mahnomen	2,414	2,495	2,116	198	241	216	7.6	8.8	9.3
REGION 4	103,972	104,805	98,318	4,323	4,728	4,849	4.0	4.3	4.7
Becker	14,617	14,802	14,044	751	948	947	4.9	6.0	6.3
Clay	25,778	25,489	25,095	1,130	1,060	1,008	4.2	4.0	3.9
Douglas	16,308	16,402	15,332	568	683	673	3.4	4.0	4.2
Grant	3,204	3,357	2,872	139	137	196	4.2	3.9	6.4
Otter Tail	27,705	27,915	25,824	1,147	1,270	1,318	4.0	4.4	4.9
Pope	5,079	5,128	4,690	233	266	302	4.4	4.9	6.0
Stevens	5,431	5,813	4,956	115	104	151	2.1	1.8	3.0
Traverse	2,294	2,350	2,164	73	90	84	3.1	3.7	3.7
Wilkin	3,556	3,549	3,341	167	170	170	4.5	4.6	4.8
REGION 5	66,133	66,630	61,160	3,748	4,272	4,944	5.4	6.0	7.5
Cass	10,506	10,420	9,165	671	787	775	6.0	7.0	7.8
Crow Wing	23,948	24,419	22,539	1,007	1,233	1,299	4.0	4.8	5.4
Morrison	14,732	14,974	14,149	1,050	1,180	1,476	6.7	7.3	9.4
Todd	11,629	11,687	10,638	674	709	941	5.5	5.7	8.1
Wadena	5,318	5,130	4,669	346	363	453	6.1	6.6	8.8
REGION 6E	61,561	60,145	56,318	2,792	2,938	2,876	4.3	4.7	4.9
Kandiyohi	22,253	22,063	20,398	794	834	753	3.4	3.6	3.6
McLeod	18,727	18,553	17,234	768	805	891	3.9	4.2	4.9
Meeker	9,293	9,295	8,515	774	849	639	7.7	8.4	7.0
Renville	11,288	10,234	10,171	456	450	593	3.9	4.2	5.5
REGION 7E	53.652	53,271	52,362	3,064	3,656	3,539	5.4	6.4	6.3
Chisago	14,419	14,247	14,269	665	808	951	4.4	5.4	6.2
Isanti	12,209	12,063	12,082	688	824	701	5.3	6.4	5.5
Kanabec	5,875	5,813	5,444	481	562	563	7.6	8.8	9.4
Mille Lacs	10,735	10,787	10,288	557	673	565	4.9	5.9	5.2
Pine	10,414	10,361	10,279	673	789	759	6.1	7.1	6.9
REGION 7W	133,605	132,239	127,092	6,794	7,704	7,306	4.8	5.5	5.4
Benton	15,804	15,652	14,832	878	968	1,025	5.3	5.8	6.5
Sherburne	19,423	19,235	18,228	1,193	1,324	1,219	5.8	6.4	6.3
Stearns	64,983	64,357	60,986	2,955	3,533	3,314	4.3	5.2	5.2
Wright	33,395	32,995	33,046	1,768	1,879	1,748	5.0	5.4	5.0
St. Cloud MSA	100,210	99,244	94,046	5,025	5,824	5,556	4.8	5.5	5.6

St. Cloud MSA Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

Industry	Employment			% Change From	
	July 1991	June 1991	July 1990	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	78,624	79,624	76,234	-1.3	3.1
Goods Producing	19,404	19,060	19,389	1.8	0.1
Construction and Mining	3,753	3,600	4,460	4.3	-15.9
Manufacturing	15,651	15,460	14,929	1.2	4.8
Durable Goods	9,097	8,998	8,531	1.1	6.6
Nondurable Goods	6,554	6,462	6,398	1.4	2.4
Service Producing	59,220	60,564	56,845	-2.2	4.2
Transp., Comm., & Util.	4,203	4,192	3,917	0.3	7.3
Trade	23,505	23,623	22,873	-0.5	2.8
Wholesale	3,727	3,716	3,804	0.3	-2.0
Retail	19,778	19,907	19,069	-0.6	3.7
Finan., Insur., & Re. Estate	2,576	2,551	2,425	1.0	6.2
Services	17,842	17,841	17,283	0.0	3.2
Health	6,323	6,325	5,802	0.0	9.0
Other Services	11,519	11,516	11,481	0.0	0.3
Government	11,094	12,357	10,347	-10.2	7.2

Employment In The St. Cloud MSA Surpasses 100 Thousand For The First Time In July

While employment in the northern regions dropped slightly over the month, it rose in the central Regions of 6E, 7E, and 7W. In the St.Cloud MSA employment rose from 99,204 in June to 100,210 in July to pass the 100 thousand mark for the first time. It means the MSA had nearly 6,200 more jobs than it did last July.

Meanwhile, unemployment rates dropped in every region over the month. And they were even further below last years' as recovery from what has turned out to be a mild recession continues. In the St. Cloud MSA where employment gains were especially strong, the unemployment rate dropped from 5.5% in June to 4.8%, bringing it below the 5.6% of July 1990. During July 1988 and 1987, the rate was 4.1% and 4.2% respectively suggesting that job creation still isn't fast enough to satisfy everyone seeking work.

The St. Cloud MSA's over-the-year job gains were largely attributable to health services (up 9.0%), government (up 7.2%) , and durable goods manufacturing (up 6.6%). Smaller sectors like transportation/communication/public utilities and finance/ insurance/real estate also grew substantially over the year.

Construction/ mining jobs were down nearly 16% over the year, a much sharper cutback than experienced statewide. The bright sign was that retail trade employment was 3.7% higher than it was a year ago although it dropped slightly over the month. Perhaps consumer confidence is returning.

By Ron Daws

Northeast Minnesota

Unemployment Rates Continue To Fall As Employment Levels Creep Upward

Employment levels in Region 3 continue to edge upward while unemployment subsides as the effects of what sems to be a mild and short-lived recession continue to dwindle.

Region 3's unemployment rate dropped from 7.0% in June to 6.5% in July to return to the same rate it was in July 1990. Duluth's 5.3% in July was the lowest it has been in July since 1986 when it was 4.8%. During the first two months of 1991, Duluth's unemployment rate averaged 0.8 percentage points above the same months of 1990, but during the latest five months it has averaged only 0.2 over.

As an additional sign that the recession is abating, employment levels slowly march upward. Region 3's employment level barely budged over the month and year, but Duluth's rose from 38,766 in June 1991 and 38,729 in July 1990 to 39,313 this July, the highest level since at least 1980.

Job estimates based on employer surveys (that reflect workers commuting into Duluth) tell a somewhat different story. This data suggests that the job level dropped slightly (-1.1%) both over the month and year.

Compared with July 1990, nondurable goods producing jobs were up 6.0% and health service jobs were up 6.6%. Unfortunately, those gains were more than offset by a 7.6% loss in durable goods producing, three percent losses in retail trade, government, and other services. Government cuts are in response to tighter budgets, and the loss of over 300 retail trade jobs reflects consumer belt tightening.

Over the month, job losses were spread over several industries. None except durable goods producing's 9.4% loss was noteworthy. It was caused by temporary layoffs by a food processor and a tool maker.

By Ron Daws

LABOR FORCE DATA

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	July 1991	June 1991	July 1990	July 1991	June 1991	July 1990	July 1991	June 1991	July 1990
REGION 3	142,808	142,716	142,194	10,004	10,756	9,824	6.5	7.0	6.5
Aitkin	5,677	5,664	5,057	460	515	496	7.5	8.3	8.9
Carlton	12,353	12,569	12,517	802	966	954	6.1	7.1	7.1
Cook	3,401	3,249	3,077	103	127	142	2.9	3.8	4.4
Itasca	16,845	17,602	16,456	1,501	1,765	1,724	8.2	9.1	9.5
Koochiching	9,420	9,427	11,108	744	882	658	7.3	8.6	5.6
Lake	4,559	4,912	4,770	315	421	317	6.5	7.9	6.2
St. Louis	90,553	89,293	89,209	6,079	6,080	5,533	6.3	6.4	5.8
City of Duluth	39,313	38,766	38,729	2,212	2,637	2,224	5.3	6.4	5.4
Balance St. Louis	51,240	50,527	50,480	3,867	3,443	3,309	7.0	6.4	6.2

DULUTH & DULUTH-SUPERIOR MSA NONFARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT

Industry	DULUTH					DULUTH SUPERIOR				
	Employment			% Change From		Employment			% Change From	
	July 1991	June 1991	July 1990	Month Ago	Year Ago	July 1991	June 1991	July 1990	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	49,396	49,958	49,963	-1.1	-1.1	98,002	98,820	98,974	-0.8	-1.0
Goods Producing	6,099	6,196	6,106	-1.6	-0.1	18,202	18,345	18,484	-0.8	-1.5
Mining	Small, combined with construction					5,344	5,479	5,542	-2.5	-3.6
Construction	1,965	1,911	1,998	2.8	-1.7	3,963	3,694	4,270	7.3	-7.2
Manufacturing	4,134	4,285	4,108	-3.5	0.6	8,895	9,172	8,672	-3.0	2.6
Durable Goods	1,486	1,641	1,609	-9.4	-7.6	4,573	4,845	4,630	-5.6	-1.2
Nondurable Goods	2,648	2,644	2,499	0.2	6.0	4,322	4,327	4,042	-0.1	6.9
Service Producing	43,297	43,762	43,857	-1.1	-1.3	79,800	80,475	80,490	-0.8	-0.9
Transp., Comm., & Util.	3,113	3,107	3,213	0.2	-3.1	6,063	6,042	6,212	0.3	-2.4
Trade	11,814	11,742	12,062	0.6	-2.1	24,115	23,945	25,096	0.7	-3.9
Wholesale	1,905	1,896	1,836	0.5	3.8	3,967	3,954	3,992	0.3	-0.6
Retail	9,909	9,846	10,226	0.6	-3.1	20,148	19,991	21,104	0.8	-4.5
Finan., Insur., & Re. Estate	1,974	1,992	1,945	-0.9	1.5	3,329	3,329	3,245	0.0	2.6
Services	14,882	14,992	14,751	-0.7	0.9	25,143	25,390	25,025	-1.0	0.5
Health	6,419	6,355	6,023	1.0	6.6	10,334	10,308	9,811	0.3	5.3
Other Services	8,463	8,637	8,728	-2.0	-3.0	14,809	15,082	15,214	-1.8	-2.7
Government	11,514	11,929	11,886	-3.5	-3.1	21,150	21,769	20,912	-2.8	1.1

Research Summaries

Several important studies have been conducted over the past three or four years regarding the role that education and business must play in preparing a workforce that can compete in a global economy. The following is a list of some of these reports:

Accelerating Academic Achievement: A Summary of Findings from 20 Years of the National Assessment of Educational Progress
by Ina V.S. Mullis, Eugene H. Owen, and Gary W. Phillips
Princeton, NJ: Educational Testing Service, 1990.

Worker Training: Competing in the New International Economy
A report of the Office of Technology Assessment, U.S. Congress
Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1990.

America's Choice: High Skills or Low Wages!
The report of the Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce
Rochester, New York: National Center on Education and the Economy, 1990.

"From High School to Work: Market and Institutional Mechanisms in Japan"
by James E.Rosenbaum and Takehiko Kariya
American Journal of Sociology 94, No. 6, May 1989.

"What If Good Jobs Depended on Good Grades?"
by James Rosenbaum
American Educator, Winter 1989.

SchoolWorks: Reinventing Public Schools to Create the Workforce of the Future
by William E. Nothdurft
A German Marshall Fund of the United States Book
Washington, D.C.: The Brookings Institution, 1989.

Apprenticeship for Adulthood: Preparing Youth for the Future
by Stephen F. Hamilton
New York: Free Press, 1990.

The Business Role in State Education Reform
A report prepared for the Business Roundtable by R. Scott Fosler, 1990.

An article that synthesizes many of these reports is, "Does Business Have Any Business in Education?" by Nan Stone which appeared in the March-April 1991 issue of *Harvard Business Review*. Ms. Stone states that "Today more than ever before, school is about working and work is about learning... For many executives, the most effective way to change schools is to change what happens inside their own companies."

Higher education, full-time work, longer experience on the job, and union membership increase the earnings of both men and women--but women have a harder time reaping the rewards, according to congressional testimony. A college degree added $3.83/hour to the wage of white working mothers, says the Institute for Women's Policy Research. A full-time job rather than a part-time job adds $1.26, union membership adds $1.05, and 5 years of work experience adds $0.35.

o The July 21, 1991 *New York Times* article "Work Force or Nonworking Poor?" by George B. Autry, president of a research corporation in Chapel Hill, N.C.states that "Business can't live with America's poor and it can't live without them. It can't afford the social and economic costs of their dependency. Nor can it afford the waste of labor as middle-class entrants into the work force slow to a trickle...But school reform came too late to make the work force competitive. It is time for business leaders to focus on adults--especially adults who are undertrained and likely to be wasted in today's economy."

o A study from the Economic Policy Institute challenges the Labor Department's *Workforce 2000* predictions that the U.S. economy will create a large number of highly skilled jobs in the 1990s and that there will be a shortage of qualified workers. Actually, according to the authors, requirements for jobs will increase only slightly over the next 10 years, and they also question that the future labor force will be increasingly dominated by unqualified poor and minority workers.

o Programs to get poor people jobs modestly increase their earnings and save public money. But not much, according to a major new study by the Manpower Demonstration Research Corp. The study will not reassure those who want to believe that welfare dependence can be eliminated at little expense to taxpayers.

o The all-industries median first-year wage increase negotiated in the first 36 weeks of 1991 was 3.9%, compared with 4.0% in the same time span of 1990, according to the latest Bureau of National Affairs survey.

o Two of the most important U.S. labor market trends during the 1970s and 1980s--the decline in trade unionism and the increase in wage inequality-- appear to have a cause-and-effect relationship, according to research by David Card, a Princeton University economist. Workers in low-wage jobs have become less likely to be represented by unions, while union coverage has actually increased for the top fifth of wage earners. Since unions tend to raise the earnings of low-wage workers, this has resulted in greater wage inequality. The research was based on data from the Current Population Survey.

o Asian-Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Native Americans owned 376,711 U.S. businesses in 1987, up 87% from 1982, according to economic census data. The rise in the number of Hispanic-owned businesses was 81%, it was 38% in black-owned businesses, and it was 14% overall.

By Bruce Steuernagel

A Decade of Diversity

Jobs proliferated in Minnesota during the 1980s, but not all areas shared them equally.

Jobs in Minnesota grew by an impressive 20.5% during the 1980s, even though the state's economy was adversely affected by the economic downturn of 1981-82 and the serious downsizing of the computer manufacturing industry later in the decade. Overall, a total of 351,000 jobs was added in the 1980s.

Where in the state were these jobs created? Did all areas of the state share equally in the employment gains and increased economic prosperity in the 1980s? What do these gains mean for various regions of the state in the upcoming decade?

Employment gains and losses were not uniform throughout the state, since population shifts and economic influences affected various regions differently. Also, jobs increased much faster in the latter part of the 1980s after recovery from the recession of the early '80s took hold. By examining employment changes in different regions of the state during the decade, a clearer picture of the growth in various areas emerges. This gives insight into the strengths and weaknesses of the employment bases of the different regions, and how employment in each area might grow in upcoming years.

The non-metropolitan counties of Minnesota tend to fall into three categories, based on their location and the major economic activity that takes place in each (Figure 1).

- The **"Twin Cities Fringe Counties"**. Located within a 100-mile radius of Minneapolis and St. Paul but beyond the 7-county metropolitan region, these 26 counties contain some of Greater Minnesota's largest and most prosperous cities, notably Mankato, St. Cloud, and Rochester, which, by themselves, are distinct labor market areas. Still, the proximity of the Fringe Counties to the Twin Cities and its suburbs allows their residents to have access to jobs in the metropolitan area.
- **"Agriculture Dependent Counties"** include those 28 which derive at least 20% of their total labor and proprietors' income from farming.
- The 11 **"Natural Resource Counties"** in northeast Minnesota which are heavily dependent on mining, forest products and tourism (although not exclusively dependent).

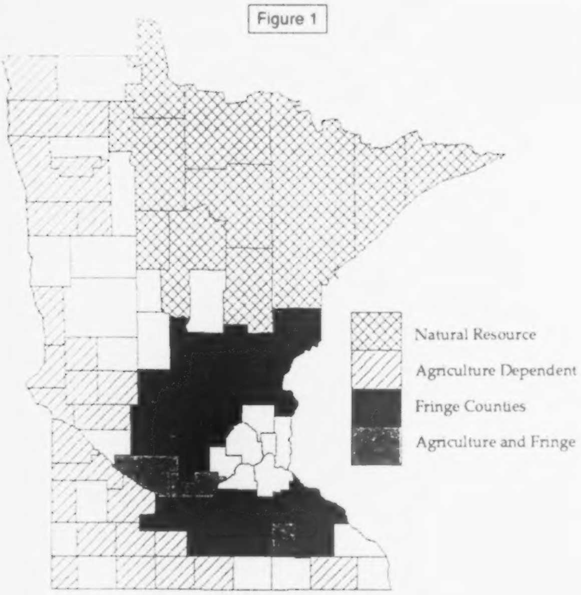
The remaining 18 non-metro counties do not fit into any of these categories. Many counties within the Fringe region have significant agricultural sectors, and many Agriculture Dependent counties have important manufacturing firms. Three counties qualified as both Agriculture Dependent and Fringe

Twin Cities Fringe Counties

While these counties are neither metropolitan nor suburban, in many ways they are economically tied to the metropolitan area. These counties contain some of Minnesota's larger cities, a number of communities in the 10,000 to 25,000 population range, and smaller towns whose economies are closely tied to agriculture.

Many workers residing in the Fringe Counties commute or carpool to jobs in Minneapolis, St. Paul or their suburbs. Hence, these counties represent a peripheral or supplementary labor market area for many firms

Figure 1



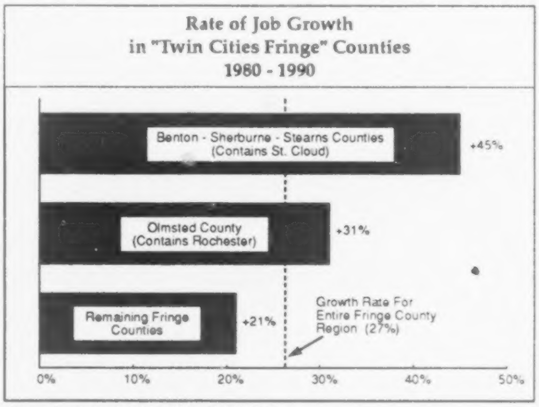
located in the 7-county metropolitan region. Also, many workers who live in the metro region work in jobs located in Fringe Counties.

Employment grew faster in the Fringe Counties during the 1980s than in either the state or the Twin Cities metro region (27% for the Fringe Counties vs. 20% for the state and 23% for theTwin Cities metro area). Non-farm payroll jobs in the Fringe Counties dropped only 1.5% during the economic downturn of the early '80s and then increased dramatically: a 14% rise between 1983 and 1987 while other non-metro areas of the state experienced much slower growth, and a healthy 13% increase between 1987 and 1990.

Two notable factors were responsible for the impressive job gains of the 1980s, and will continue to strengthen the Fringe Counties in the coming decade. One reason is that many firms, especially manufacturing and service businesses, found the Fringe Counties attractive not only because of their proximity to the Twin Cities but because lower land prices, property taxes and prevailing wage rates resulted in lower costs of doing business. In the 1980s, manufacturing added 12,700 jobs (a 19% gain) and the number of service jobs rose by 31,500 (52%). Jobs in wholesale and retail trade grew by 19,000 or 27%. The other reason is that the prosperous larger cities of the Fringe Counties acted as magnets for new businesses, resulting in more jobs for local residents. The major cities of the region have been attractive markets for goods and services, and numerous retail and service firms headquartered elsewhere established operations in Mankato, Rochester, St. Cloud and other communities.

For these reasons, the rate of job growth in the region's two largest cities, Rochester and St. Cloud, surpassed the growth rate in the entire Fringe County region (Figure 2). Non-agricultural payroll jobs in Benton, Sherburne and Stearns Counties, the St. Cloud metro area, grew 45% during the 1980s; Olmsted County, which is the Rochester metro area, had an increase of 31% in total payroll jobs. While payroll jobs increased in all but one of the Fringe Counties during the 1980s, the combined St. Cloud and Rochester metro areas added 38,800 jobs, 50% of the Fringe Counties' 77,600 job growth.

Figure 2


Rate of Job Growth in "Twin Cities Fringe" Counties 1980 - 1990

Source: Research and Statistics Office, ES 202 Program

Slowing economic growth in the early 1990s should result in a slower rate of job growth in the Fringe Counties than what occurred during the 1980s. Nevertheless, the substantial base of businesses and jobs that were developed during the past decade should allow these counties to prosper even in the face of the mild economic downturn of the early 1990s, and what may be a protracted recovery thereafter.

Agriculture Dependent Counties

Minnesota's Agriculture Dependent counties are those which derive at least 20 percent of their annual income from farm products. While nearly all counties in western and southern Minnesota have significant agricultural sectors, these 28 are defined as Agriculture Dependent because of their particularly high reliance on farm income.

Most of these counties are largely rural, consisting of small towns and wide expanses of farmland. Certain counties contain smaller-to-medium sized communities, often the county seats, which serve as retail and service centers for surrounding areas. These towns are relatively prosperous, and many have manufacturing plants, usually food processing or light manufacturing companies, which are major employers of local residents.

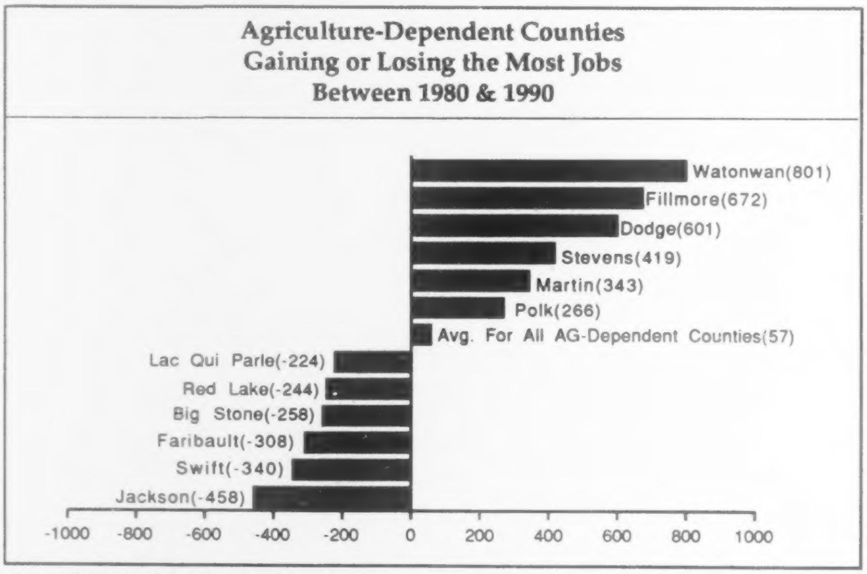
In the 28 Agriculture Dependent counties, total payroll jobs declined by six percent between 1980-83, due to the economic downturn prevalent throughout the state in the early 1980s. Hardest hit were construction, manufacturing and wholesale and retail trade firms. Non-farm payroll employment declined 0.3% in 1983-87 as a downturn in the farm economy adversely affected rural Minnesota. The number of jobs increased almost nine percent during 1987-90 as overall business conditions improved despite the severe drought of 1988.

The percentage of manufacturing jobs in these counties increased in the 1980s: from 15.6% in 1980 to 16.3% in 1990. Likewise, employment in service industries rose from 19% to 23% during the '80s. The Trade sector declined in relative importance, from 29% of all jobs in these counties in 1980 to 25% in 1990.

The concentration of retail business and jobs into the larger communities, and the corresponding decline of both population and retail business in the smaller towns, was the prevailing pattern in the counties of this region in the 1980s. Even so, certain communities have successfully maintained or developed an industrial base and strengthened their role as retail trade and service centers for surrounding areas.

Figure 3 shows which of the Agriculture Dependent counties added or lost the most jobs. Those counties which gained the most usually

Figure 3



Agriculture-Dependent Counties Gaining or Losing the Most Jobs Between 1980 & 1990

Source: Research and Statistics Office; ES-202 Program had important retail and service centers, and job growth in some communities has been helped by the presence of a locally important manufacturing firm or some other relatively large employer such as a branch of the University of Minnesota. Examples of such areas are: St. James in Watonwan County, Morris in Stevens County, Fairmont in Martin County and Crookston in Polk County.

During the 1990s, those communities that continue to diversify their economies toward manufacturing, retail trade and service businesses to lessen their dependence on farm income will have the best chance of maintaining a growing or at least stable employment base. The region's population is projected to stablize in most counties and to decline slightly in some. Economic gains and increases in jobs will not be generated from population growth in the region, but will be the result of innovative development efforts by the region's individual communities.

Natural Resource Counties

The economy of the 11-county area in northeast Minnesota is largely dependent on three principal "natural resource" activities: mining and taconite production, forest products, and tourism. All three are cyclical industries, and the state, national and global demand for the products or services offered by these industries seriously influences the prosperity of this region. As demand rises and falls, so do the economic fortunes of the "natural resource" region. Nevertheless, large, stable employers such as educational institutions, medical facilities, and state and local government operations moderate the effects of cyclical swings in the demand for the region's products and the ensuing job gains and losses in the cyclical industries.

Employment in metal mining was nearly 14,000 in 1980, but the number of mining jobs fell to 6,500 by 1983 due to the closing of several major mining operations. By 1987, mining employment hit bottom at about 4,300, although it recovered to about 6,400 by 1990. Even though mining companies have found it profitable to re-open some facilities, employment in this industry is not likely to reach pre-1980 levels for the foreseeable future. The economic downturn in the early 1990s slowed the demand for steel products, and Minnesota taconite faces stiff competition from producers worldwide.

In the 1980s, forest products industries lost jobs due to the closing of older, less-efficient facilities in Cloquet and other communities, but jobs have been added in areas where new mills have been built. Technological advances and the development of new processes, such as the production of waferboard and chipboard from previously unusable wood by-products, have created new jobs. Employment in this industry has been helped by the construction of a large, state-of-the-art paper mill in Duluth. Bemidji and Grand Rapids have also benefited from employment growth in this industry.

Jobs in retail and service businesses which cater to tourists increased noticeably during the 1980s, largely due to successful promotional efforts, special events and new attractions that draw visitors to the region. Duluth, the communities along the North Shore of Lake Superior, and towns near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area will continue to benefit from expanded efforts to bring tourist business into northeast Minnesota.

Of the three non-metropolitan regions, the Natural Resources counties lost the greatest percentage of jobs between 1980 and 1983 (13%) as the effects of the national recession hit the cyclical economy of this the region harder than other parts of the state. Manufacturing employment declined 16% during these years, service jobs were down 15%, and construction lost 37% of its total payroll employment. After 1983, employment in non-manufacturing industries picked up slightly, and between 1987 and 1990, all industry groups made solid employment gains. Total payroll employment in the region grew 13% during this time.

Overall, the percent distribution of employment by major industry category in the Natural Resource counties did not change much between 1980 and 1990. Manufacturing declined from 12% to 11% over the decade, while the percentages of services and government increased modestly.

The number of jobs in this region grew during the latter years of the 1980s as a result of a strengthened economy. The Natural Resource counties have capitalized on their strengths and are now poised to take advantage of opportunities that will come along in the 1990s as the economy improves. The three major industries of this area will remain cyclical, but a greater breadth of business activity will help even out the boom-and-bust employment patterns in this region in future years.

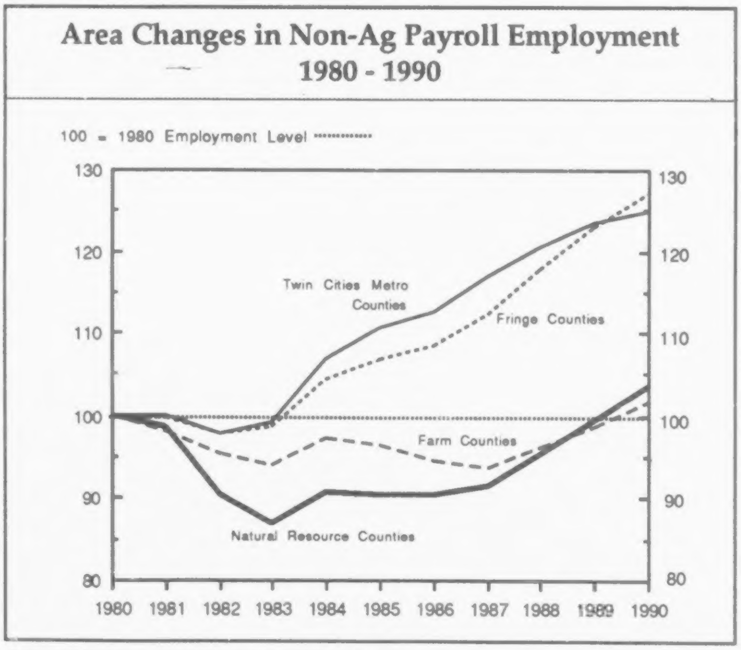
Summary

Economic events in the 1980s affected job growth or decline in the three non-metropolitan areas of the state differently (Figure 4). The recession of 1981-82 caused the Natural Resources counties of northeast Minnesota to lose jobs fastest during the early '80s. In contrast, the most dramatic job growth occurred in the Fringe Counties surrounding the metropolitan region during the relatively prosperous years of the late 1980s. The Agriculture Dependent counties experienced a loss of jobs in the early '80s, little change in the mid-'80s, and moderate gains in the latter part of the decade, but the gains or losses were nearly always slower than those occurring in the other regions during the same time periods.

Each non-metropolitan region built upon its economic strengths over the past decade and made efforts to diversify its economy to protect against employment losses caused by downturns in dominant business sectors. While this can't guarantee a recession-proof employment base, it can help moderate the effects of economic downturns, and boost overall job growth in more prosperous years.

By Kevin Alaspa

Figure 4



Area Changes in Non-Ag Payroll Employment 1980 - 1990

Source: Research and Statistics Office; ES-202 Program

Occupational Outlook

Jobs That Can Change The World

Want to help the environment and make a career of it besides? You might have that opportunity, as firms become more environmentally-conscious either by choice or because of consumer demand and government regulation. So what kind and how many jobs are there in Minnesota?

Two environmental occupations we track and project are foresters/conservation scientists, of which there were 740 in Minnesota in 1989, and forest/conservation workers, of which there were 650. Neither is very large.

Obviously, there are many other environmental-related occupations, but they are small, or their environmental responsibilities may be just part of another job's duties. When we forecast employment, these jobs get combined with other occupations. Consequently, we tap other sources of information.

One major source of environment-related employment is the government, although some federal jobs may be more prevalent in other parts of the country than in Minnesota. Figure 1 shows Minnesota state government job classifications that have 15 or more employees, their average wages, and the occupations under which they are grouped in our employment outlooks. With over half of these jobs paying more than $15 per hour, their earnings are higher than most state government jobs. Most of these jobs require post-secondary education. There is definitely competition for these jobs at the entry level, although in some higher-level occupations, opportunities may be there for those with experience and good managerial skills.

Jobs are also present in the private sector. ***Citybusiness*** magazine listed information about 25 major Minneapolis-St. Paul area environmental services companies in their August 20, 1990 issue. Consulting, lab analysis, and/or remediation of problems were listed most often as their areas of specialization.

The two major factors that influence the growth of environment-related jobs operate oppositely. While the need for environmental protection spurs growth in both government and the private sector, budgetary constraints tend to slow job expansion in government, as in the examples shown below.

Environmental concerns will drive jobs like these **Up**

Inspectors/Compliance Officers
Chemists
Geologists/Geophysicists
Biologists
Conservation Scientists
Urban/Regional Planners
Geographers experienced in
  Geographic Information Systems
Lawyers
Industrial Hygienists

Government budgetary constraints will hold job expansion **Down**

Biologists
Conservation Scientists
Environmental Health Specialists
Foresters
Park Supervisors

An alternative way to engage in an environmental career is to incorporate one's ideas into another job, such as a purchasing agent who buys products that are the most environmentally beneficial.

There are many different types of occupations related to the environment, and

Figure 1

State Government Environment-Related Job Classes With 15 or More Employees

For Week Ending 4-23-91

State of Minnesota's Job Title	Employment	Average Wage	Occupational Group
Research Scientist 2	28	$17.37	All Other Physical Scientists
Hydrologist 1	35	13.90	
Hydrologist 2	67	16.89	
Hydrologist 3	52	19.88	
Natural Resources Forestry Specialist Intermediate	33	14.09	Forester, Conservation Scientist
Natural Resources Forestry Specialist Senior	104	15.50	
Natural Resources Forestry Regional Specialist	19	17.10	
Natural Resources Forestry Assistant Supervisor	18	16.23	
Natural Resources Forestry Supervisor	22	20.35	
Natural Resources Fisheries Area Supervisor	23	18.09	Biological Scientists
Pollution Control Specialist	88	12.25	All Other Life Scientists
Pollution Control Specialist Intermediate	74	13.90	
Pollution Control Specialist Senior	112	15.81	
Pollution Control Project Leader	35	17.17	
Pollution Control Specialist Principal	26	20.96	
Natural Resources Specialist (Fisheries Management)	61	12.79	
Natural Resources Specialist 1 (Park Specialist)	16	13.49	
Nat. Resources Specialist Intermediate (Fisheries Mgmt.)	31	14.88	
Nat. Resources Specialist Intermediate (Wildlife Mgmt.)	27	14.34	
Nat. Resources Specialist Senior (Wildlife Management)	42	16.65	
Agricultural Technician	37	9.07	Natural Sciences and Math Technicians
Pollution Control Technician	76	10.03	
Natural Resources Technician (Forestry)	92	12.37	
Natural Resources Technician (Wildlife)	33	11.76	
Natural Resources Technician (Fisheries)	80	12.29	
Natural Resources Trails & Waterways Specialist Senior	15	15.25	All Other Professional, Paraprofessional, Technical
Natural Resources Wildlife Area Supervisor	16	18.25	
Natural Resources Specialist (Conservation Officer)	139	15.59	All Other Protective Service Workers
Natural Resources Specialist 3 (Conservation Officer)	22	17.89	
Natural Resources Park Supervisor 2	18	15.42	All Other Service Workers
Natural Resources Park Supervisor 3	26	16.36	
Dairy Regulatory Specialist 2	24	14.66	
Parks Worker	61	10.71	Forest and Conservation Workers
Zoo Keeper	35	11.49	Animal Caretakers, Except Farm

Source: Minnesota Department of Employee Relations

more will probably emerge. Their growth in government may be slower than in the private sector. Competition may be tough, with some jobs easier to get in other states. But Jane Willard, president of EnPro Assessment Corp, a St. Paul firm that does environmental assessments and audits for property transfers, said this about Minnesota in the January/February 1991 issue of Minnesota Ventures: "...I wouldn't have so much competition elsewhere, but on the other hand, there wouldn't be so much work". So if, despite limited opportunities and advanced job requirements, you are interested, check around--there may be opportunity for a career that will make the planet a little more liveable.

By Sue Borgfelt and Betsy Sawyer

For this study the following sources were consulted: Minnesota Departments of Employee Relations and Natural Resources, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, *Minnesota Ventures* and *CityBusiness* magazines, the *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, and *Minnesota Occupational Information 1990-91.*

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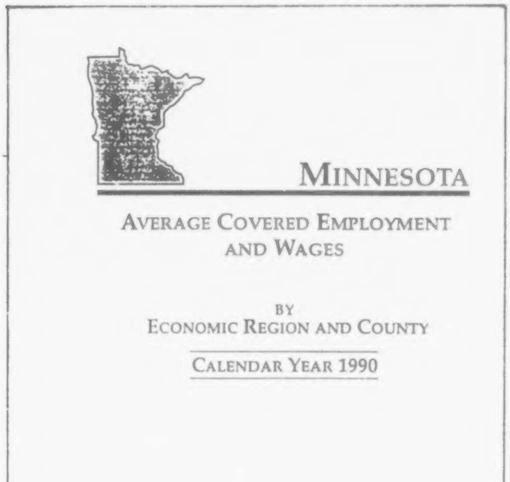

MINNESOTA

AVERAGE COVERED EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES

BY
ECONOMIC REGION AND COUNTY

CALENDAR YEAR 1990

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF
JOBS AND TRAINING
RESEARCH AND STATISTICS OFFICE

Notice:

The Forecast of Real GNP and Minnesota Employment which normally appears on page 4 of the *"Review"* will not appear in this issue. It will reappear in the December 1991 issue, although not necessarily in the same format.

New publication available:

The *Minnesota Average Covered Employment and Wages by Economic Region and County* will be available in October 1991 by calling (612) 296-7892. Minnesota is one of the few states to publish annual average employment and total annual wages by industry.

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Minnesota

Minnesota Labor Market Review

October 1991

Job Growth Continues, But At Slower Pace

After seasonal adjustment, the number of jobs in Minnesota increased during August for the fifth straight month, but at a slower pace than earlier in the year. Employment grew rapidly in May and June as the state regained the jobs it lost during the recession. When the number of jobs started hitting new peaks in July, however, its growth rate slowed considerably.

The actual job gain from July to August was only one-third the usual number. The large industry sectors--manufacturing, trade, services and government--were tepid. Still, the job tally rose even after seasonal adjustment, with solid though unspectacular rises for all the aforementioned sectors except manufacturing.

This leaves Minnesota with 12,000 more jobs in August than last year at the same time, and 22,000 above its recessionary low in March. While this translates into a growth rate of less than one percent, it beats the U.S. where there are fewer jobs than a year ago. In nearly every major industry group, Minnesota maintains a year-to-year growth rate two percentage points better than the nation. Services, Minnesota's fastest grower, is doing so twice as fast as in the U.S. The number of government positions is increasing in the state, but not in the nation. Financial services continues to add jobs in Minnesota, while shedding them throughout most of the country. Trade is stable here, but causing job loss in the nation as a whole. Manufacturing and construction have lost jobs in both the state and nation, but twice as fast outside Minnesota.

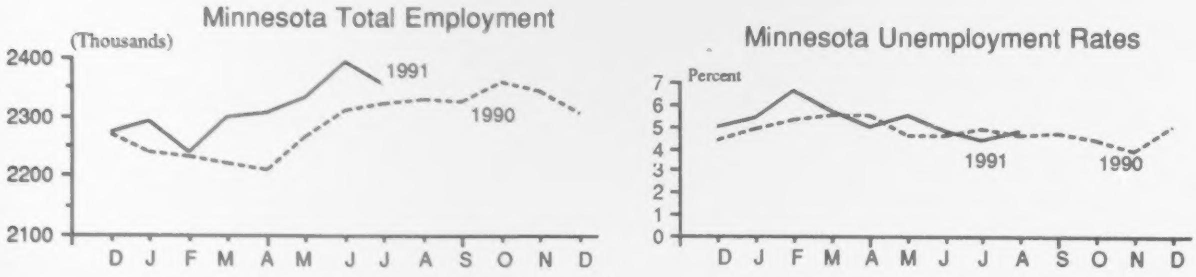
The result is a state labor market that is neither improving nor getting worse. Minnesota's unemployment rate was 4.8% in August. While under the U.S.'s 6.8%, it is not budging. The unemployment rate has now persisted in fluctuating above and below its year-ago level for several months, and its 12-month average has remained at 5.0% starting in February. Job growth since that time has been fast enough to keep unemployment from rising, but not fast enough to lower it.

By Don Hilber

Current Labor Force Estimates

	Minnesota (In Thousands)			% Change From		United States (In Thousands)			% Change From	
	Aug 91	Jul 91	Aug 90	Aug 91	Aug 90	Aug 91	Jul 91	Aug 90	Jul 91	Aug90
Labor Force	2472.5	2501.4	2442.1	-1.2	1.2	126,09	7127,327	126,012	-1.0	0.1
Employment	2353.4	2392.2	2329.3	-1.6	1.0	117,85	9118,751	119,174	-0.8	-1.1
Unemployment	119.0	109.2	112.7	9.1	5.6	8,237	8,576	6,837	-4.0	20.5
Actual Unemp. Rate	4.8	4.4	4.6	-	-	6.5	6.7	5.4	-	-
Seasonally Adj. Rate	-	-	-	-	-	6.8	6.8	5.6	-	-

Minnesota Employment and Unemployment Rates - 1990 and 1991



Minnesota Nonfarm Wage & Salary Jobs, Hours & Earnings

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT 1/ (thousands)			PERCENT CHANGE FROM		PRODUCTION WORKERS & HOURS & EARNINGS 2/					
						Average Weekly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings	
	Aug. 1991	July 1991	Aug. 1990	July 1991	Aug. 1990	Aug. 1991	Aug. 1990	Aug. 1991	Aug. 1990	Aug. 1991	Aug. 1990
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	2,144.6	2,142.1	2,132.4	0.1	0.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goods Producing	498.4	493.0	508.6	1.1	-2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mining	9.1	9.0	9.0	1.0	1.1	676.31	636.04	44.7	44.2	15.13	14.39
Metal Mining	6.6	6.5	6.6	2.0	0.6	727.58	653.13	44.5	42.8	16.35	15.26
Construction	87.1	85.3	91.4	2.1	-4.6	691.36	692.16	41.3	42.0	16.74	16.48
Manufacturing	402.3	398.7	408.3	0.9	-1.5	468.79	454.21	40.8	40.7	11.49	11.16
Durable Goods	223.4	223.7	232.1	-0.1	-3.7	488.68	469.86	41.1	41.0	11.89	11.46
Lumber and Furniture	23.4	23.8	23.6	-1.7	-0.8	516.14	494.98	39.4	38.4	13.10	12.89
Stone, Clay and Glass	9.1	9.1	9.5	0.7	-4.0	515.04	531.00	43.5	45.0	11.84	11.80
Primary Metals	6.1	6.2	6.5	-1.1	-5.1	486.82	464.46	40.4	40.6	12.05	11.44
Fabricated Metals	33.6	33.4	34.8	0.6	-3.4	515.81	487.06	41.8	41.7	12.34	11.68
Industrial Machinery	72.3	72.8	76.4	-0.7	-5.4	522.05	487.18	41.4	40.7	12.61	11.97
Office and Computing	31.8	32.4	33.6	-1.8	-5.2	583.34	512.67	44.7	43.3	13.05	11.84
Electronic Equipment	29.6	29.5	30.3	0.3	-2.3	400.82	395.11	40.9	41.2	9.80	9.59
Transportation Equipment	10.7	10.5	11.7	2.2	-8.3	521.56	508.64	41.1	42.6	12.69	11.94
Instruments and Related	32.7	32.5	33.0	0.8	-0.8	461.32	441.91	41.9	41.3	11.01	10.70
Misc. Manufacturing	5.7	5.8	6.2	-1.7	-8.1	383.25	415.63	36.5	39.1	10.50	10.63
Nondurable Goods	178.8	175.0	176.2	2.2	1.5	446.02	437.13	40.4	40.4	11.04	10.82
Food & Beverage Products	57.0	54.2	54.3	5.1	4.9	397.16	393.21	41.5	42.1	9.57	9.34
Textiles & Apparel	5.1	4.9	5.2	4.8	-1.9	296.24	287.74	36.8	35.7	8.05	8.06
Paper Products	35.4	35.3	34.8	0.5	1.8	571.98	565.35	42.4	42.7	13.49	13.24
Printing and Publishing	52.5	52.1	52.7	0.8	-0.3	438.48	434.71	37.8	38.3	11.60	11.35
Chemicals and Petroleum	11.5	11.5	12.0	0.5	-4.0	562.55	536.80	40.5	40.3	13.89	13.32
Rubber, Plastic & Leather	17.2	17.1	17.2	0.9	0.4	415.55	384.15	40.7	39.0	10.21	9.85
Service Producing	1,646.1	1,649.1	1,623.8	-0.2	1.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transp., Comm., & Util.	107.7	107.5	107.9	0.1	-0.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	73.0	72.9	72.9	0.2	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trucking & Warehousing	28.0	27.8	28.0	0.8	-0.1	394.56	423.41	32.0	33.9	12.33	12.49
Communication & Utilities	34.7	34.6	35.0	0.1	-0.8	647.27	602.14	39.3	38.5	16.47	15.64
Trade	525.2	523.4	525.2	0.4	0.0	255.45	241.68	29.6	29.8	8.63	8.11
Wholesale	129.1	128.7	127.8	0.3	1.0	430.85	412.17	37.4	37.3	11.52	11.05
Retail	396.1	394.7	397.4	0.4	-0.3	203.93	192.10	27.3	27.6	7.47	6.96
Building Materials	18.4	18.6	18.5	-1.0	-0.8	332.26	340.43	37.8	37.7	8.79	9.03
General Merchandise	53.7	53.4	55.8	0.6	-3.8	203.46	189.92	27.2	26.6	7.48	7.14
Food Stores	56.9	57.0	55.2	-0.2	3.1	231.29	199.79	27.6	28.1	8.38	7.11
Automotive	43.9	43.9	44.0	0.0	-0.2	310.57	300.95	34.7	35.7	8.95	8.43
Apparel	20.2	19.8	20.3	2.0	-0.6	140.45	130.54	22.4	22.2	6.27	5.88
Home Furnishings	14.9	14.8	15.3	0.7	-2.5	295.53	276.79	32.8	31.1	9.01	8.90
Eating and Drinking	137.0	136.5	137.8	0.4	-0.6	133.91	128.34	23.7	23.9	5.65	5.37
Fin., Insur., Real Estate	127.7	127.6	125.6	0.0	1.6						
Finance	58.1	58.2	56.5	-0.1	2.8						
Insurance	47.3	47.3	47.1	-0.1	0.3						
Real Estate	22.3	22.2	22.0	0.6	1.4						
Services	575.2	573.1	558.5	0.4	3.0						
Personal Services	24.6	24.6	24.6	0.4	0.3						
Business Services	96.0	95.7	95.7	0.3	0.3						
Repair Services	23.6	23.6	23.3	0.0	1.3						
Health Services	176.0	175.2	169.0	0.5	4.1						
Nursing Homes	44.6	44.4	44.1	0.3	1.1						
Hospitals	59.0	58.6	56.5	0.7	4.4						
Legal Services	16.4	16.4	15.9	-0.2	2.9						
Private Education	25.5	25.3	25.2	0.9	1.5						
Government	310.4	317.5	306.5	-2.2	1.3						
Federal	34.5	34.5	34.8	-0.2	-0.8						
State	73.4	73.4	73.3	0.0	0.1						
Education	35.5	35.7	35.3	-0.7	0.7						
Local	202.5	209.6	198.5	-3.4	2.0						
Education	90.1	95.6	87.8	-5.8	2.6						

Note: Not all industry sub-groups are shown for every major industry category.

1/ Totals may not add because of rounding.

2/ Average earnings data are on a "gross" basis and are derived from reports of payroll for full-time and part-time production or non-supervisory workers. The payroll is reported before deductions of any kind. Bonuses, retroactive pay, tips, payment in kind, and "fringe benefits" are excluded.

Minneapolis-St. Paul MSA

Area Shows Weak Job Growth

The August unemployment rate rose to 4.6 % from 4.1% in July, a somewhat bigger increase than the 0.2 point average July to August change experienced over the past 10 years. Comparable unemployment rates for the State and Nation in August were 4.8% and 6.5%, respectively. The Twin Cities' unemployment rate has averaged about 0.5 of a point higher than a year ago for several months. The U.S. unemployment rate averaged 1.4 points above a year ago since January.

August data suggests that employment, which had been showing signs of resurgence in April, May, and June, is slackening. The number of employed residents dropped between July and August by 1.6%, considerably greater than the -0.5% average. A survey of businesses showed practically no change in the overall job level between July and August. Larger than usual cutbacks in local government education and public administration were offset by moderate gains in most other industries. In most major industries, the number of jobs added this August was greater than last year when the recession was just beginning, but it was noticeably weaker than the average.

The construction industry added about 900 jobs in August, about normal. Construction recovered moderately this summer, but remains about 2,600 jobs or 5% below a year ago. Through the first half of the year, the number of permits for single-family homes ran at about the same level as a year ago, but permits for multifamily units is down by 67%. Construction activity on non-residential sites has probably declined from a year ago, while other heavy construction, such as roads and bridges, is higher.

After rebounding strongly this spring, the manufacturing sector has not added many new jobs in the past three months. The length of the average workweek for production workers bounced back up in August to last year's level. Until the recovery becomes stronger, firms will use overtime to meet the demand for goods rather than add new workers.

Probably the biggest reason for slowing job growth is weak hiring in retail trade and all but the health-care services. Over the past 10 years, firms in these industries added an average of nearly 3,500 jobs during August. This year only 2,900 were added as consumers and businesses spent cautiously. Retail trade jobs number about 800 less than a year ago. Most of the cutbacks have occurred in department and home furnishing stores and in eating and drinking establishments.

There are about 11,800 more service industry jobs this August than last year, about 3,100 short of the past five year average. Business service employment, which expanded rapidly during the 1980s, was basically unchanged from a year ago. Among them, the personnel services industry, which includes temporary help agencies, added about 400 jobs in August. The number of jobs in personnel services is increasing steadily, but is still about 700 below the year ago level. Health care and social service organizations have accounted for about 60% of the over-the-year job growth. In health care services, job growth has been most rapid in physician's offices and clinics, other outpatient and health practitioner clinics, medical and dental laboratories, and hospitals. Little job growth has taken place in dentist offices or nursing homes over the past year.

By Bruce Steuernagel

Labor Force Estimates

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	Aug. 1991	July 1991	Aug. 1990	Aug. 1991	July 1991	Aug. 1990	Aug. 1991	July 1991	Aug. 1990
Mpls-St. Paul	1,365,254	1,387,279	1,371,048	65,687	59,671	62,863	4.6	4.1	4.4
REGION 11	1,281,722	1,302,647	1,287,098	61,683	55,865	59,174	4.6	4.1	4.4
Anoka	131,819	133,971	132,372	7,058	6,483	6,803	5.1	4.6	4.9
Carver	24,562	24,963	24,665	1,100	953	1,005	4.3	3.7	3.9
Dakota	144,355	146,711	144,960	6,848	6,210	5,998	4.5	4.1	4.0
Hennepin	606,458	616,359	609,002	30,079	27,101	28,721	4.7	4.2	4.5
Ramsey	271,199	275,627	272,337	12,082	11,065	12,432	4.3	3.9	4.4
Scott	29,040	29,514	29,162	1,408	1,266	1,325	4.6	4.1	4.3
Washington	74,289	75,502	74,600	3,108	2,787	2,890	4.0	3.6	3.7
Chisago	14,171	14,403	14,231	756	662	830	5.1	4.4	5.5
Isanti	11,999	12,195	12,050	724	685	636	5.7	5.3	5.0
Wright	32,821	33,356	32,958	1,846	1,762	1,575	5.3	5.0	4.6
St. Croix, WI	24,541	24,679	24,712	677	696	650	2.7	2.7	2.6
Bloomington	56,855	57,784	57,094	2,828	2,453	2,550	4.7	4.1	4.3
Minneapolis	199,998	203,263	200,837	11,279	10,291	9,612	5.3	4.8	4.6
St. Paul	139,830	142,113	140,417	7,598	7,030	7,024	5.2	4.7	4.8

Twin Cities Nonfarm Wage & Salary Jobs, Hours & Earnings

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT 1/ (thousands)			PERCENT CHANGE FROM		PRODUCTION WORKERS & HOURS & EARNINGS 2/					
						Average Weekly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings	
	Aug. 1991	July 1991	Aug. 1990	July 1991	Aug. 1990	Aug. 1991	Aug. 1990	Aug. 1991	Aug. 1990	Aug. 1991	Aug. 1990
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	1,377.7	1,377.5	1,371.4	0.0	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goods Producing	310.1	308.4	319.2	0.6	-2.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mining	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.0	-10.0	736.28	773.30	43.8	46.5	16.81	16.63
Construction	52.8	51.9	55.7	1.8	-5.2	736.56	730.97	39.6	40.7	18.60	17.96
Manufacturing	256.8	256.0	262.9	0.3	-2.3	496.94	479.55	40.5	40.4	12.27	11.87
Durable Goods	149.4	149.2	155.8	0.1	-4.1	514.49	493.69	40.8	40.7	12.61	12.13
Lumber and Furniture	9.7	10.0	10.1	-2.8	-3.2	576.03	551.42	39.4	38.4	14.62	14.36
Stone, Clay and Glass	2.9	2.9	3.0	1.0	-4.5	496.75	555.97	39.3	43.3	12.64	12.84
Primary Metals	4.5	4.5	4.7	-0.9	-4.4	482.40	473.71	40.2	41.7	12.00	11.36
Fabricated Metals	25.4	25.1	25.9	1.3	-1.9	537.51	505.49	41.7	41.4	12.89	12.21
Industrial Machinery	50.4	50.6	53.3	-0.4	-5.5	549.29	517.93	40.9	40.4	13.43	12.82
Office and Computing	20.5	20.8	22.1	-1.2	-7.1	620.04	581.52	40.9	42.2	15.16	13.78
Electronic Equipment	18.1	18.0	18.9	0.2	-4.2	407.09	392.83	39.6	39.6	10.28	9.92
Transportation Equipment	4.9	4.8	5.7	2.9	-14.0	711.28	688.71	42.9	43.7	16.58	15.76
Instruments and Related	29.6	29.3	29.8	0.8	-0.9	480.36	463.56	42.1	41.8	11.41	11.09
Misc. Manufacturing	3.9	3.9	4.3	-0.6	-9.6	429.68	473.60	36.6	40.0	11.74	11.84
Nondurable Goods	107.4	106.8	107.1	0.6	0.3	473.98	459.65	40.1	39.9	11.82	11.52
Food & Beverage Products	19.6	19.5	19.0	0.7	3.0	478.26	496.32	42.1	44.0	11.36	11.28
Paper Products	26.8	26.6	26.5	0.6	1.2	512.91	435.22	41.0	41.2	12.51	12.02
Printing and Publishing	37.6	37.5	37.4	0.4	0.4	442.26	432.43	37.8	37.8	11.70	11.44
Chemicals and Petroleum	10.0	10.0	10.2	0.2	-1.9	602.87	581.20	40.9	40.0	14.74	14.53
Rubber and Plastic	11.3	11.1	11.2	1.0	0.5	440.99	397.58	41.8	38.6	10.55	10.30
Service Producing	1,067.6	1,069.1	1,052.2	-0.1	1.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transp. Comm., & Util.	75.6	75.5	76.2	0.2	-0.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	54.1	54.0	54.5	0.3	-0.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trucking & Warehousing	17.1	17.0	17.7	0.9	-3.5	380.67	416.43	28.6	31.5	13.31	13.22
Communication & Utilities	21.5	21.5	21.7	0.1	-1.0	645.13	590.95	39.7	38.2	16.25	15.47
Trade	333.2	331.5	332.6	0.5	0.2	285.69	274.51	30.2	30.1	9.46	9.12
Wholesale	86.1	85.8	84.8	0.4	1.6	481.95	463.90	37.8	37.9	12.75	12.24
Retail	247.1	245.8	247.9	0.5	-0.3	224.62	216.89	27.8	27.2	8.08	7.83
Building Materials	10.8	10.8	10.6	-0.8	1.5	381.67	413.90	37.2	38.9	10.26	10.64
General Merchandise	38.0	37.7	39.4	0.7	-3.7	230.36	209.55	28.3	26.9	8.14	7.79
Food Stores	30.9	31.0	30.1	-0.2	2.9	278.71	264.62	29.4	29.5	9.48	8.97
Automotive	25.6	25.6	25.4	0.1	1.0	360.61	341.14	37.1	37.0	9.72	9.22
Apparel	13.5	13.2	13.5	2.3	0.0	132.27	128.26	21.3	21.2	6.21	6.05
Home Furnishings	10.1	10.1	10.7	0.5	-5.9	347.03	325.17	33.4	32.1	10.39	10.13
Eating and Drinking	86.2	85.7	86.6	0.6	-0.5	146.37	145.61	23.8	23.6	6.15	6.17
Fin., Insur., Real Estate	99.2	99.4	97.7	-0.2	1.5						
Finance	41.8	42.0	40.8	-0.4	2.5						
Insurance	39.3	39.4	39.2	-0.3	0.2						
Real Estate	18.1	18.0	17.7	0.6	2.2						
Services	385.0	383.8	373.2	0.3	3.1						
Personal Services	17.3	17.3	17.5	0.5	-1.0						
Business Services	82.4	82.1	82.3	0.3	0.1						
Repair Services	17.3	17.3	17.2	0.0	1.0						
Health Services	99.8	99.3	95.2	0.5	4.8						
Nursing Homes	23.2	23.2	22.8	0.1	2.0						
Hospitals	34.8	34.6	33.6	0.4	3.6						
Legal Services	13.5	13.6	12.8	-0.4	5.7						
Private Education	15.2	15.2	15.0	-0.2	0.9						
Government	174.6	179.0	172.4	-2.5	1.3						
Federal	21.4	21.4	21.6	0.0	-1.2						
State	48.7	48.7	48.9	-0.1	-0.3						
Education	24.9	25.0	24.9	-0.5	0.1						
Local	104.5	108.8	101.9	-4.0	2.6						
Education	48.3	51.6	47.1	-6.5	2.4						

Note: Not all industry sub-groups are shown for every major industry category.

1/ Totals may not add because of roundings.

2/ Average earnings data are on a "gross" basis and are derived from reports of payroll for full-time and part-time production or non-supervisory workers. The payroll is reported before deductions of any kind. Bonuses, retroactive pay, tips, payment in kind, and "fringe benefits" are excluded.

Southern Minnesota

Labor Force Estimates

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	Aug. 1991	July 1991	Aug. 1990	Aug. 1991	July 1991	Aug. 1990	Aug. 1991	July 1991	Aug. 1990
REGION 6W	25,585	26,605	24,702	1,045	908	988	3.9	3.3	3.8
Big Stone	3,016	3,134	2,927	115	90	106	3.7	2.8	3.5
Chippewa	7,192	7,639	6,924	362	287	277	4.8	3.6	3.8
Lac Qui Parle	4,414	4,532	4,138	144	115	205	3.2	2.5	4.7
Swift	4,978	5,123	4,811	236	231	200	4.5	4.3	4.0
Yellow Med	5,985	6,177	5,902	188	185	200	3.0	2.9	3.3
REGION 8	65,719	67,353	62,665	2,795	2,283	2,984	4.1	3.3	4.5
Cottonwood	5,998	6,254	6,041	781	436	834	11.5	6.5	12.1
Jackson	6,092	6,081	5,652	321	287	293	5.0	4.5	4.9
Lincoln	3,495	3,641	3,339	105	120	122	2.9	3.2	3.5
Lyon	14,097	14,122	12,650	416	415	409	2.9	2.9	3.1
Murray	5,202	5,502	5,070	212	187	230	3.9	3.3	4.3
Nobles	12,248	12,635	12,319	380	351	378	3.0	2.7	3.0
Pipestone	5,303	5,467	5,011	181	157	285	3.3	2.8	5.4
Redwood	8,067	8,281	7,672	273	213	270	3.3	2.5	3.4
Rock	5,217	5,370	4,911	126	117	163	2.4	2.1	3.2
REGION 9	118,134	118,648	114,632	5,121	4,630	4,217	4.2	3.8	3.5
Blue Earth	28,148	28,772	27,824	1,088	856	865	3.7	2.9	3.0
Brown	15,509	15,597	14,743	560	550	538	3.5	3.4	3.5
Faribault	8,889	8,687	8,456	449	382	321	4.8	4.2	3.7
LeSueur	12,169	11,786	12,181	702	647	612	5.5	5.2	4.8
Martin	13,395	13,450	12,259	711	725	460	5.0	5.1	3.6
Nicollet	15,365	15,706	15,188	486	489	541	3.1	3.0	3.4
Sibley	7,407	7,420	7,241	314	263	293	4.1	3.4	3.9
Waseca	10,797	10,638	10,510	480	397	357	4.3	3.6	3.3
Watonwan	6,455	6,592	6,230	331	321	230	4.9	4.6	3.6
REGION 10	231,785	235,998	226,130	10,554	9,668	10,384	4.4	3.9	4.4
Dodge	7,991	8,324	8,130	404	358	380	4.8	4.1	4.5
Fillmore	10,420	10,776	9,836	593	510	452	5.4	4.5	4.4
Freeborn	15,942	16,277	15,005	901	834	2,012	5.3	4.9	11.8
Goodhue	22,670	22,981	21,755	968	827	847	4.1	3.5	3.7
Houston	10,059	10,089	9,740	327	372	274	3.1	3.6	2.7
Mower	18,515	18,850	17,913	726	626	758	3.8	3.2	4.1
Olmsted	65,368	66,632	64,771	2,639	2,487	2,229	3.9	3.6	3.3
Rice	28,878	29,463	27,953	1,193	1,214	1,049	4.0	4.0	3.6
Steele	15,926	16,432	16,427	829	659	648	4.9	3.9	3.8
Wabasha	9,838	9,810	8,961	521	469	390	5.0	4.6	4.2
Winona	26,178	26,364	25,639	1,453	1,312	1,345	5.3	4.7	5.0
Rochester Cty	40,669	41,455	40,297	2,038	1,907	1,638	4.8	4.4	3.9

Rochester MSA Nonfarm Wage & Salary Jobs

Industry	Employment			% Change From	
	Aug. 1991	July 1991	Aug. 1990	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	67,346	67,700	66,893	-0.5	0.7
Goods Producing	14,313	14,700	14,911	-2.6	-4.0
Construction and Mining	2,436	2,458	2,507	-0.9	-2.8
Manufacturing	11,877	12,242	12,404	-3.0	-4.2
Durable Goods	9,532	10,001	10,212	-4.7	-6.7
Nondurable Goods	2,345	2,241	2,192	4.6	7,0
Service Producing	53,033	53,000	51,982	0.1	2.0
Transp., Comm., & Util.	1,916	1,926	1,931	-0.5	-0.8
Trade	13,564	13,596	13,689	-0.2	-0.9
Wholesale	1,668	1,664	1,614	0.2	3.3
Retail	11,896	11,932	12,075	-0.3	-1.5
Finan., Insur., & Re. Estate	1,805	1,797	1,819	0.4	-0.8
Services	29,805	29,716	28,762	0.3	3.6
Health	20,341	20,296	19,673	0.2	3.4
Other Services	9,464	9,420	9,089	0.5	4.1
Government	5,943	5,965	5,781	-0.4	2.8

Employment Grows Over The Year, But Slowly

Recovery from the recession seems to have slowed at least temporarily as unemployment rates rose in August and employment dropped over the month. The unemployment rate in Region 8's Cottonwood County jumped from 6.5% in July to 11.5% in August owing to a layoff at a large local manufacturer. Nevertheless, there were more people working in every region compared to last August.

In the Rochester MSA, it was the second straight month that the unemployment rate rose, that is, from 3.3% in June to 3.6% in July, and to 3.9% in August. This may signal that those who predicted that the recocery would be shallow or even short-lived were on track.

The survey of Rochester MSA employers seems to confirm that the number of jobs in the MSA dropped over the month, and that job growth is slowing.

It was the goods producers--construction, mining and manufacturing--that lost jobs over the month, although nondurable goods producers did hire 4.6% more people. Job level changes across the service industries were all minor--all within one-half a percent.

Over the year, it was again construction, mining and manufacturing that lost jobs, with the same exception of the nondurable goods producers who added 7.0% more of them.

Across all industries, jobs rose a meager 0.7% over the year, down from July's over-the-year increase of 1.7%. During August 1990 the over-the-year jump was 4.9%.

By Ron Daws

Central and Northwest Minnesota

Labor Force Estimates

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	Aug. 1991	July 1991	Aug. 1990	Aug. 1991	July 1991	Aug. 1990	Aug. 1991	July 1991	Aug. 1990
REGION 1	43,501	45,422	41,996	3,045	3,026	3,040	6.5	6.2	6.8
Kittson	2,619	2,732	2,491	205	165	293	7.3	5.7	10.5
Marshall	4,895	5,111	4,550	517	530	515	9.6	9.4	10.2
Norman	3,895	4,172	3,551	223	231	201	5.4	5.2	5.4
Pennington	6,953	6,870	6,941	491	489	386	6.6	6.6	5.3
Polk	14,087	15,160	13,739	1,101	1,085	1,121	7.2	6.7	7.5
Red Lake	1,594	1,630	1,426	229	226	222	12.6	12.2	13.5
Roseau	9,458	9,747	9,288	279	299	302	2.9	3.0	3.1
REGION 2	32,457	32,829	31,061	2,278	2,060	2,102	6.6	5.9	6.3
Beltrami	16,573	16,730	15,944	1,023	935	946	5.8	5.3	5.6
Clearwater	3,393	3,468	3,314	401	432	369	10.6	11.1	10.0
Hubbard	7,668	7,750	7,599	604	447	519	7.3	5.5	6.4
Lake of Woods	2,460	2,504	2,057	41	48	63	1.6	1.9	3.0
Mahnomen	2,363	2,377	2,147	209	198	203	8.1	7.7	8.6
REGION 4	101,829	104,822	99,257	4,429	4,312	4,342	4.2	4.0	4.2
Becker	14,602	14,951	14,071	835	753	800	5.4	4.8	5.4
Clay	25,374	26,759	25,151	990	1,116	946	3.8	4.0	3.6
Douglas	16,257	16,267	15,564	591	567	599	3.5	3.4	3.7
Grant	3,188	3,259	2,998	155	142	150	4.6	4.2	4.8
Otter Tail	26,767	27,401	26,240	1,232	1,145	1,248	4.4	4.0	4.5
Pope	4,932	5,081	4,798	251	232	264	4.8	4.4	5.2
Stevens	5,195	5,272	4,995	100	117	95	1.9	2.2	1.9
Traverse	2,171	2,307	2,198	103	73	84	4.5	3.1	3.7
Wilkin	3,343	3,525	3,242	172	167	156	4.9	4.5	4.6
REGION 5	64,591	66,191	61,923	3,996	3,754	4,080	5.8	5.4	6.2
Cass	9,799	10,121	9,353	696	673	808	6.6	6.2	7.9
Crow Wing	24,149	24,576	22,578	1,069	1,011	1,129	4.2	4.0	4.8
Morrison	14,460	14,695	14,465	1,071	1,049	992	6.9	6.7	6.4
Todd	11,314	11,576	10,583	720	675	777	6.0	5.5	6.7
Wadena	4,859	5,223	4,638	440	348	374	8.3	6.2	7.5
REGION 6E	61,486	61,173	57,176	2,979	2,781	2,651	4.6	4.3	4.4
Kandiyohi	21,057	21,659	20,504	838	785	741	3.8	3.5	3.5
McLeod	19,322	18,874	18,106	831	768	813	4.1	3.9	4.3
Meeker	9,106	9,112	8,619	835	773	576	8.4	7.8	6.3
Renville	12,001	11,528	9,947	475	455	521	3.8	3.8	5.0
REGION 7E	52,303	53,239	52,055	3,388	3,055	3,244	6.1	5.4	5.9
Chisago	14,171	14,403	14,231	756	662	830	5.1	4.4	5.5
Isanti	11,999	12,197	12,050	724	685	635	5.7	5.3	5.0
Kanabec	5,817	5,868	5,386	549	480	507	8.6	7.6	8.6
Mille Lacs	10,069	10,253	10,262	639	555	513	6.0	5.1	4.8
Pine	10,247	10,520	10,126	720	673	758	6.6	6.0	7.0
REGION 7W	131,868	133,671	127,929	7,494	6,788	6,850	5.4	4.8	5.1
Benton	15,621	15,821	14,978	866	876	1,029	5.3	5.2	6.4
Sherburne	19,197	19,443	18,407	1,206	1,191	1,049	5.9	5.8	5.4
Stearns	64,229	65,051	61,586	3,576	2,959	3,197	5.3	4.4	4.9
Wright	32,821	33,356	32,958	1,846	1,762	1,575	5.3	5.0	4.6
St. Cloud MSA	99,047	100,314	94,972	5,648	5,026	5,276	5.4	4.8	5.3

St. Cloud MSA Nonfarm Wage & Salary Jobs

Industry	Employment			% Change From	
	Aug. 1991	July 1991	Aug. 1990	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	79,063	78,661	77,323	0.5	2.3
Goods Producing	19,766	19,425	19,380	1.8	2.0
Construction and Mining	3,900	3,763	4,545	3.6	-14.3
Manufacturing	15,866	15,662	14,831	1.3	7.0
Durable Goods	9,165	9,064	8,487	1.1	8.2
Nondurable Goods	6,681	6,578	6,344	1.6	5.3
Service Producing	59,297	59,236	57,943	0.1	2.3
Transp., Comm., & Util	4,257	4,203	3,912	1.3	8.8
Trade	23,593	23,504	23,199	0.4	1.7
Wholesale	3,698	3,727	3,873	-0.8	-4.5
Retail	19,895	19,777	19,326	0.6	2.9
Finan., Insur., & Re. Estate	2,573	2,577	2,438	-0.2	5.5
Services	17,930	17,818	17,466	0.6	2.7
Health	6,340	6,310	5,865	0.5	8.1
Other Services	11,590	11,508	11,601	0.7	-0.1
Government	10,944	11,134	10,928	-1.7	0.1

Despite Recovery Slowdown, Employment Grows Over The Year

Unemployment rates in every region save 1 and 5 were higher this August than during August 1990, and although employment grew, the rate of job creation seemed to be slower. In the St. Cloud MSA, the jobless rate rose from 5.3% in August 1990 to 5.4% this August, also up from 4.8% in July.

Nonfarm payroll jobs in the St. Cloud MSA rose seasonally in August by 0.5% to 79,063, a monthly record. That surpassed last August's record by 2.3% or by 1,740 jobs. The number of payroll jobs in the MSA in each month of 1991 has surpassed the number during comparable months of 1990, a strong indication that the area's economy is basically sound.

Only three of the MSA's major industries lost jobs over the month, of which only government's 1.7% decline was significant. All monthly job gains were modest, but that construction/mining could generate even a 3.6% increase in the face of a nationally depressed housing market is encouraging. The number of construction/mining jobs still remains 14.3% below the 4,549 of August 1990, an all-time record. Nevertheless, one has to look back to 1984 to find fewer construction/mining jobs during August than there were this year..

Excepting construction/mining, every industry save wholesale trade and nonmedical services added jobs over the year in the MSA. Again, strong gains were made in manufacturing, transportation/communication/public utilities and finance/insurance/real estate. Retail trade, which slumped last Christmas season and into early spring, in April began supporting more jobs this year than during comparable months last year . *By Ron Daws*

Northeast Minnesota

Job Levels Slip As Recovery From The Recession Stalls

Unemployment rates rose in August over the month and year, while employment levels dropped slightly. Duluth's August unemployment rate was second only to February's 6.9% during 1991.

The survey of Duluth employers, which captures considerable commuting into the city, suggests that job creation is slowing. August was the third straight month that there were fewer jobs than during the same month in 1990. The survey shows that jobs rose over the month by 0.7%, but dropped over the year by 1.1%.

Durable goods producers were the fastest job losers in Duluth over the month and year--4.2% and 12.8% respectively. But, being a small industry, it accounted for about 60 jobs over the month and about 200 over the year.

Construction, although up 2.6% over the month, remained 3.6% or about 80 jobs below the level of August 1990. The overwhelming loser of jobs over the year, however, was retail trade with about 450 fewer jobs than August 1990. During the past five months, Duluth's retail trade job level has averaged about four percent lower than during comparable months of 1990. Added to that, Duluth's government sector lost nearly 350 jobs over the year.

Manufacturing may be losing its umph in Duluth. During 1990 it lost 2.1% of the jobs it had during 1989, and a few more have have been lost thus far during 1991. Manufacturing jobs had been rebounding in Duluth after being crippled by effects of the 1981-82 recession.

By Ron Daws

Labor Force Estimates

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	Aug. 1991	July 1991	Aug. 1990	Aug. 1991	July 1991	Aug. 1990	Aug. 1991	July 1991	Aug. 1990
REGION 3	142,432	143,631	142,716	10,228	10,017	8,690	6.7%	6.5%	5.7
Aitkin	5,544	5,505	5,389	510	461	424	8.4	7.7	7.3
Carlton	12,497	12,640	12,543	923	804	817	6.9	6.0	6.1
Cook	3,400	3,390	3,131	107	103	124	3.1	2.9	3.8
Itasca	17,557	17,818	16,750	1,553	1,508	1,512	8.1	7.8	8.3
Koochiching	8,955	9,092	10,939	763	739	534	7.9	7.5	4.7
Lake	4,632	4,350	4,696	329	313	274	6.6	6.7	5.5
St. Louis	89,847	90,836	89,268	6,043	6,089	5,005	6.3	6.3	5.3
City of Duluth	39,006	39,436	38,755	2,793	2,215	2,057	6.7	5.3	5.0
Balance St. Louis	50,841	51,400	50,513	3,250	3,874	2,948	6.0	7.0	5.5

Duluth & Duluth Superior MSA Nonfarm Wage & Salary Jobs

Industry	DULUTH					DULUTH SUPERIOR				
	Employment			% Change From		Employment			% Change From	
	Aug. 1991	July 1991	Aug. 1990	Month Ago	Year Ago	Aug. 1991	July 1991	Aug. 1990	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	49,778	49,438	50,326	0.7	-1.1	98,835	98,266	100,104	0.6	-1.3
Goods Producing	6,273	6,113	6,375	2.6	-1.6	18,448	18,299	18,675	0.8	-1.2
Mining	Small combined with construction					5,532	5,350	5,495	3.4	0.7
Construction	2,134	1,967	2,213	8.5	-3.6	4,048	3,950	4,333	2.5	-6.6
Manufacturing	4,139	4,146	4,162	-0.2	-0.6	8,868	8,999	8,847	-1.5	0.2
Durable Goods	1,450	1,513	1,663	-4.2	-12.8	4,430	4,683	4,706	-5.4	-5.9
Nondurable Goods	2,689	2,633	2,499	2.1	7.6	4,438	4,316	4,141	2.8	7.2
Service Producing	43,505	43,325	43,951	0.4	-1.0	80,387	79,967	81,429	0.5	-1.3
Transp., Comm., & Util.	3,242	3,119	3,155	3.9	2.4	6,206	6,067	6,349	2.3	-2.3
Trade	11,791	11,784	12,203	0.1	-3.4	24,202	24,091	25,153	0.5	-3.8
Wholesale	1,876	1,896	1,836	-1.1	2.2	4,040	3,954	3,977	2.2	1.6
Retail	9,915	9,888	10,367	0.3	-4.4	20,162	20,137	21,176	0.1	-4.8
Finan., Insur., & Re. Estate	2,017	2,010	2,001	0.3	0.8	3,351	3,356	3,309	-0.1	1.3
Services	15,069	14,906	14,851	1.1	1.5	25,557	25,235	25,256	1.3	1.2
Health	6,481	6,423	6,074	0.9	6.7	10,468	10,372	9,895	0.9	5.8
Other Services	8,588	8,483	8,777	1.2	-2.2	15,089	14,863	15,361	1.5	-1.8
Government	11,386	11,506	11,731	-1.0	-2.9	21,071	21,218	21,362	-0.7	-1.4

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Area	Data Type	Issued By	Approximate Release Date
United States	Economic Indicators	Bureau of Economic Analysis	First day of the month
United States	Unemployment Rate & Employment	Bureau of Labor Statistics	First Friday of the month
United States	Consumer Price Index	Bureau of Labor Statistics	By end of 3rd week of month
Minnesota	Economic Indicators	DJT Research & Statistics Office	By 20th of month
Minnesota	Unemployment Rate & Employment	DJT Research & Statistics Office	By 25th of month
Minnesota Counties	Unemployment Rate & Employment	DJT Research & Statictics Office	By 30th of month

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